



**SUPERMAN**  
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# ACTION COMICS

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CANADIAN  
NO. 547  
SEPT.



**THE PLANETEER**  
ISN'T TOO GREEDY!  
HE'LL SETTLE FOR  
RULING *ONE* PLANET...  
**EARTH!**

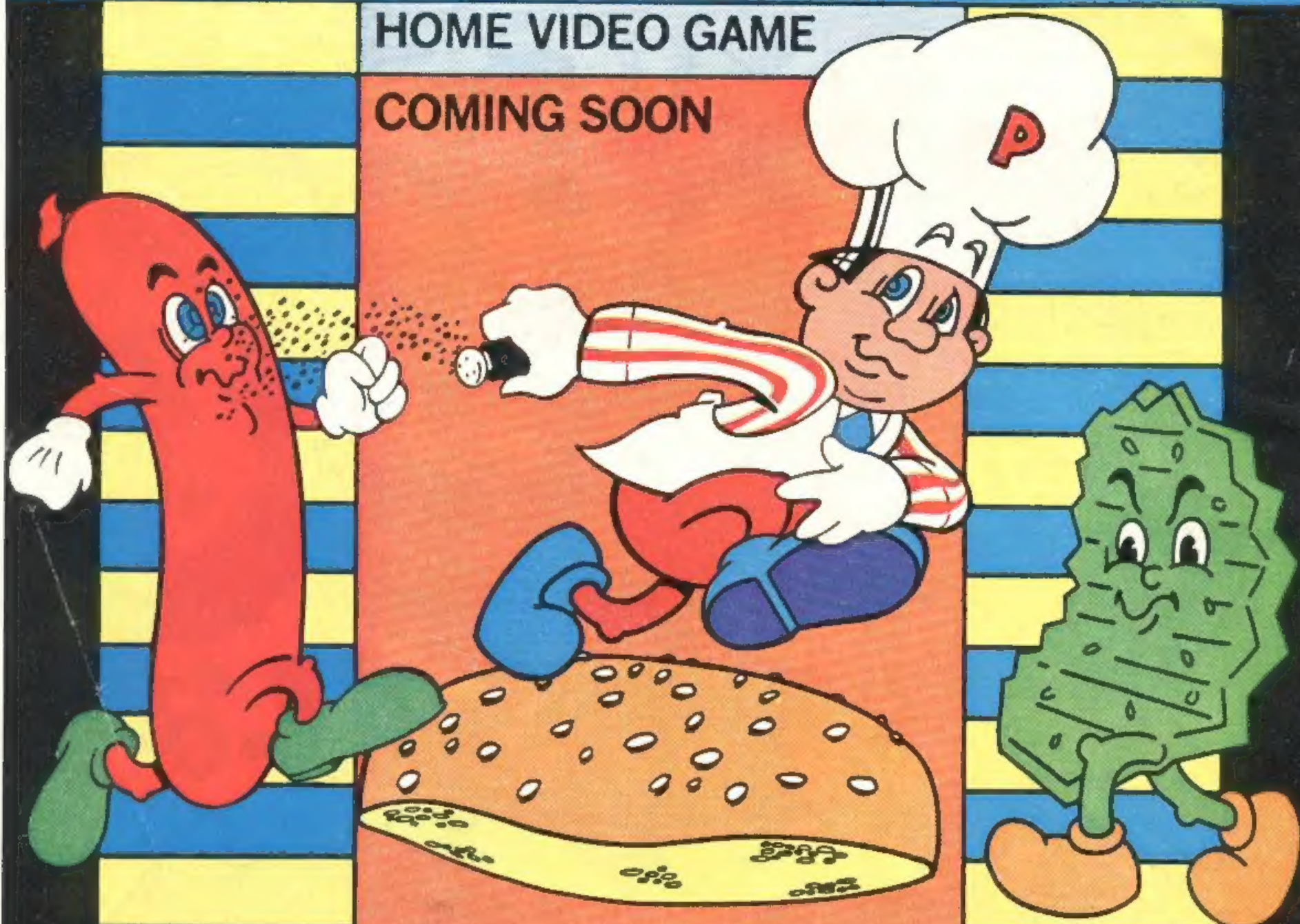


**SUPERMAN III**  
Movie Sweepstakes!  
Details Inside!

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A SPECIAL TALE FOR A SPECIAL TIME... REVEALING  
THE ORIGIN OF A WORLD-SHAKING ENEMY FOR

THIS IS LANA LANG  
FOR WGBS-TV NEWS IN  
GIZA, EGYPT, WHERE JUST  
HOURS AGO, A MAN CALL-  
ING HIMSELF *THE PLANETEER*  
KIDNAPPED THE LEADERS OF  
EIGHT OF THE WORLD'S  
MIGHTIEST NATIONS AS  
THEY WERE ABOUT TO  
SIT DOWN AT AN  
HISTORIC PEACE  
CONFERENCE!

DESPITE  
EFFORTS BY  
*SUPERMAN*,  
THE PLANETEER  
ESCAPED WITH  
HIS CAPTIVES--

**SUPERMAN**  
Created by  
JERRY SIEGEL &  
JOE SHUSTER



# "The REINCARNATION of ALEXANDER THE GREAT!"

BOB ROZAKIS / PAUL KUPPERBERG / CURT SWAN / VINCE COLLETTA + PABLO MARCOS / BEN ODA • LETTERING / JULIUS SCHWARTZ  
PLOT / SCRIPT / PENCILS / INKS / ADDED INKS / COLORING / EDITOR

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EVEN NOW, SUPERMAN IS CONTINUING HIS SEARCH FOR THE STILL-MISSING LEADERS OF EGYPT, ISRAEL, THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE UNITED STATES--

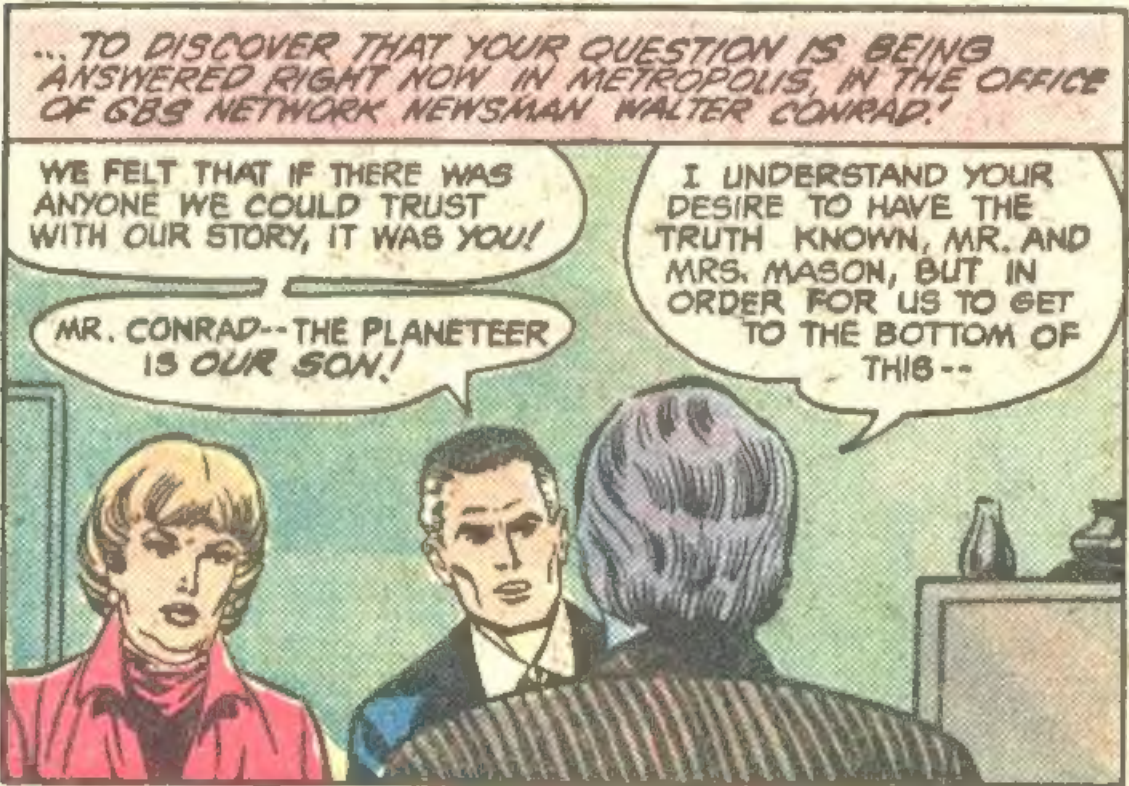
--AND WE CAN BE SURE THAT HE IS PONDERING THE SAME QUESTIONS WE ALL ARE:



WHAT IS BEHIND THIS MOST BIZARRE KIDNAPPING--

--AND JUST WHO IS THE PLANETEER?

WOULDN'T YOU BE SURPRISED, LANA...



...TO DISCOVER THAT YOUR QUESTION IS BEING ANSWERED RIGHT NOW IN METROPOLIS, IN THE OFFICE OF GBS NETWORK NEWSMAN WALTER CONRAD!

WE FELT THAT IF THERE WAS ANYONE WE COULD TRUST WITH OUR STORY, IT WAS YOU!

MR. CONRAD--THE PLANETEER IS OUR SON!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR DESIRE TO HAVE THE TRUTH KNOWN, MR. AND MRS. MASON, BUT IN ORDER FOR US TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS--



--SUPPOSE YOU START AT THE TOP!

CERTAINLY, MR. CONRAD! WE KNOW ONCE WE TELL YOU ALEX'S STORY, YOU'LL BROADCAST THE TRUTH ON YOUR NEWS PROGRAM! OUR SON'S NOT EVIL, SIR--



"--BUT HE'S NOT A WELL MAN EITHER! EVER SINCE HE FIRST HEARD OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT AS A SCHOOL BOY, HE'S BEEN OBSESSED WITH THAT MASTER OF THE ANCIENT WORLD!



"AS HE GOT OLDER, HIS OBSESSION GREW! SOON, HE BEGAN TO BELIEVE HE WAS ALEXANDER! THE FACT THAT MY NAME IS PHILIP--THE SAME AS ALEXANDER'S FATHER--ONLY ADDED FUEL TO HIS BELIEF!

"WE HOPED HE'D OUTGROW THIS FIXATION..." 2

...BUT JUDGING FROM CURRENT EVENTS, HE DIDN'T! THAT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN HIS ABILITY TO DEFEAT SUPERMAN AND VANISH WITH OUR WORLD-LEADERS!

WELL, DESPITE ALEX'S... PROBLEM, HE WAS A BRILLIANT STUDENT! HE WAS ADMITTED AS A STUDENT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY WHEN HE WAS ONLY FIFTEEN... AND STUDIED PHYSICS. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE BECAME THE LEADING EXPERT IN THE FIELD OF MAGNETISM--

...AND FROM WHAT HIS PROFESSORS TELL US, HE BUILT A DEVICE THAT ALLOWS HIM TO TAP INTO THE PLANET'S NATURAL MAGNETIC FIELD AND DIRECT IT TO HIS OWN USES!"



SNIFF! TH-THAT'S WHY HE ADOPTED THE NAME PLANETEER, BECAUSE HE PLANS TO RULE THIS PLANET! BUT WE... WE NEVER THOUGHT HE'D... CHOKE!

WE WANT TO HELP, MR. CONRAD! ALEX HAS GOT TO BE STOPPED BEFORE HE GETS HURT... OR BEFORE HE HURTS SOMEONE ELSE!

OF COURSE, MR. MASON! IN FACT, IF YOU'LL AGREE TO APPEAR WITH ME ON NATIONAL TELEVISION, PERHAPS YOU CAN DO JUST THAT!

AND SO... GOOD AFTERNOON. THIS IS WALTER CONRAD FROM THE GBS STUDIOS IN METROPOLIS. WITH ME ARE MR. AND MRS. PHILIP MASON, PARENTS OF THE PLANETEER, ALLEGED ABDUCTOR OF EIGHT OF THE WORLD'S NATIONAL LEADERS!



IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TODAY, THE MASON'S WILL SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE BACKGROUND OF THIS MOST AMAZING MAN AND APPEAL TO HIM TO RELEASE HIS CAPTIVES AND SURRENDER TO AUTHORITIES!

TELL ME, MR. MASON, WHEN DID YOUR SON... HUH?

SUDDENLY, THE STUDIO IS GRIPPED BY SOME INVISIBLE, IRRESISTIBLE FORCE THAT SHAKES IT LIKE A HOUSE OF CARDS... AND THEIR WORLD COMES TUMBLING DOWN...

M-MY CAMERA...!

RUN FOR COVER! THOSE Klieg LIGHTS ARE GONNA COME DOWN ANY SECOND!

HELP...!



BUT HELP--

--IS HALF A WORLD AWAY...

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!  
MY COMPASS SHOULD DETECT  
EVEN THE SLIGHTEST VARIATION  
IN THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC  
FLOW--

EITHER I'VE MISCALCULATED  
TERRIBLY... OR THE  
PLANETEER'S CREATING  
MISLEADING  
MAGNETIC FIELDS  
TO THROW ME  
OFF THE TRACK!

--BUT IT'S NOT  
PICKING UP A  
THING!

SUDDENLY...

THERE...! THE NEEDLE  
JUST WENT WILD, WHICH  
MEANS THE SELF-  
PROCLAIMED REINCARNATION  
OF ALEXANDER  
THE GREAT IS LEADING  
ME ON A WILD-  
GOOSE CHASE--

--OR I'VE UNCOVERED THE  
LOCATION OF MORE OF THE  
KIDNAPPED WORLD-  
LEADERS!

FASTER THAN A  
SPEEDING BULLET,  
THE MAN OF  
STEEL STREAKS  
TOWARD THE  
SUNDA STRAIT  
IN INDONESIA--

--AND KRAKATOA! NEARLY A CENTURY AGO, IT  
WAS THE SITE OF THE WORST VOLCANIC ERUPTION  
OF MODERN TIMES, LEAVING OVER 36,000 DEAD  
AND TWO-THIRDS OF THE ISLAND DESTROYED.

IT HAS LAIN SILENT  
SINCE-- A SLEEPING,  
BROODING MOUNT  
OF DESTRUCTION...  
ITS SHOULDERING  
CORE PERHAPS  
WAITING TO ERUPT  
ONCE AGAIN--

CRATERS OF WESTHOR!

--BUT UNTIL THAT TIME, IT IS THE PERFECT  
PRISON... SAFE FROM THE INTRUSION OF MAN--

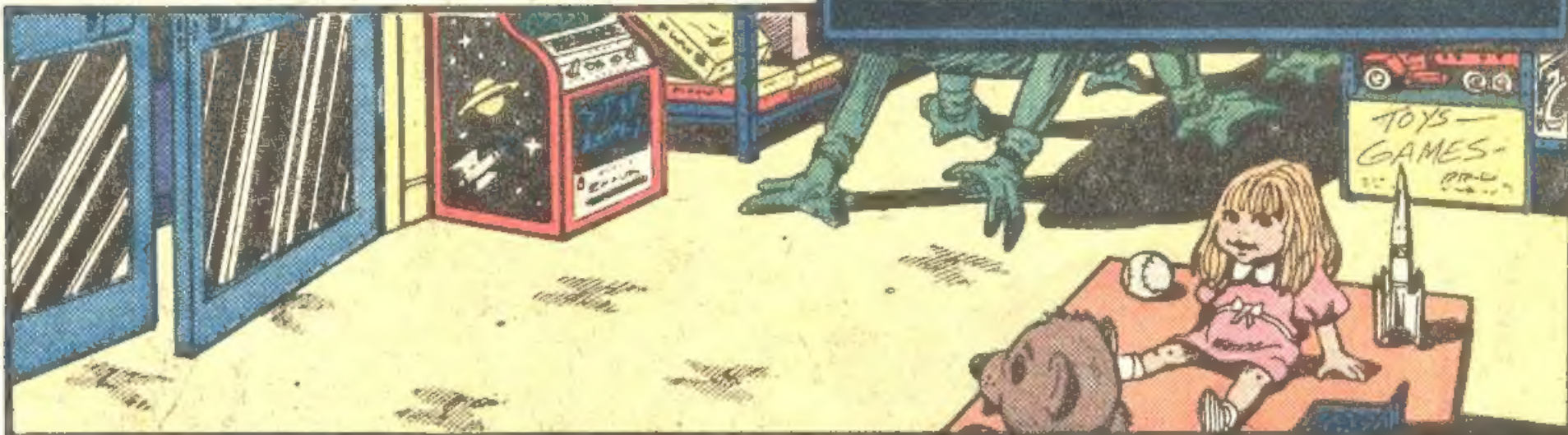
# STAR FRONTIERS™



...FROM THE VERY CENTER OF THE GREAT SPIRAL GALAXY... ON A QUEST WITH BUT ONE INTENTION...



... TO A PLANET FORBIDDEN, DRIVEN BY A FORCE **UNSTOPPABLE...**



...NOT KNOWING **WHY**-- BUT PROGRAMED TO PURCHASE...



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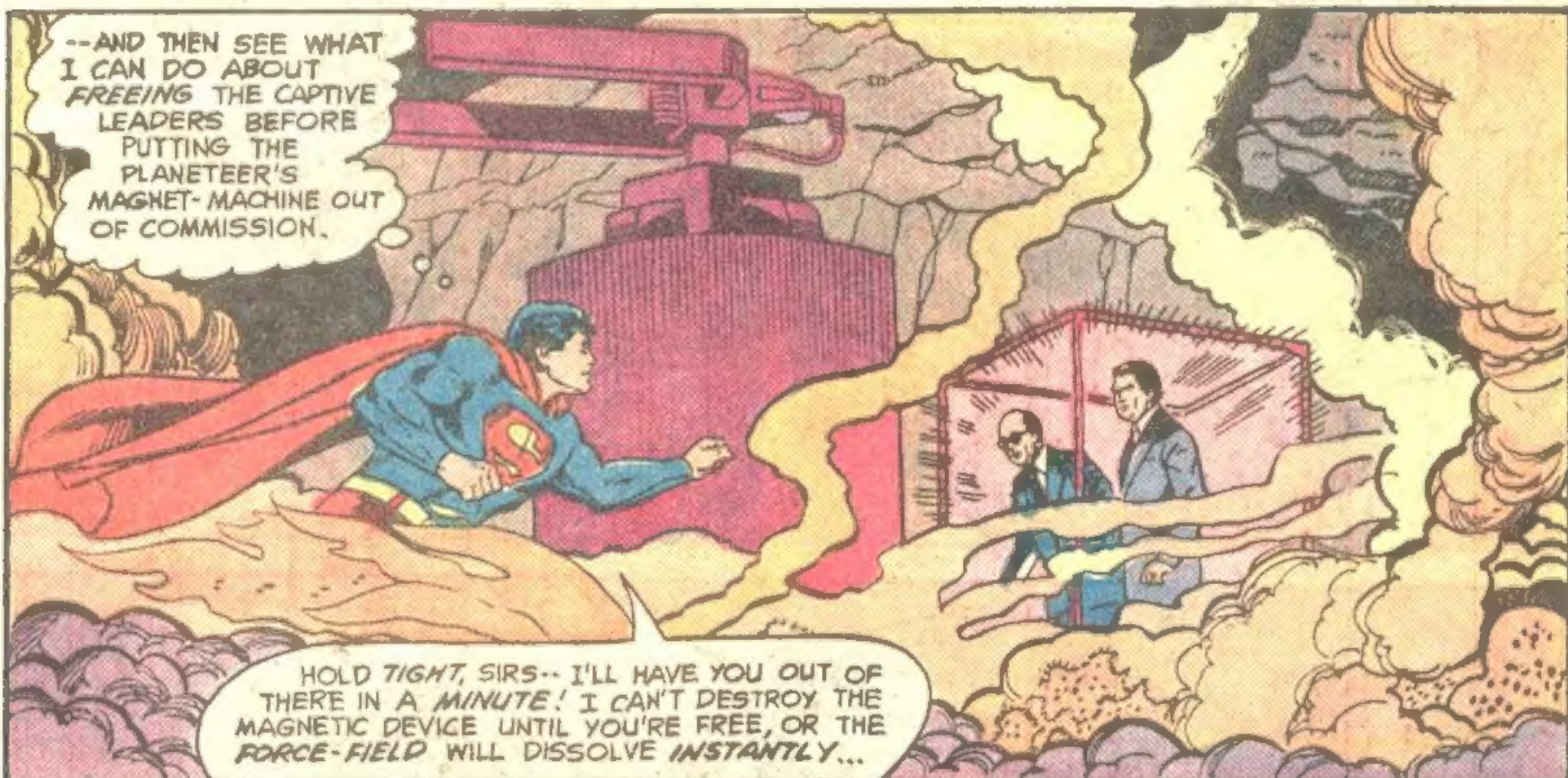
--BUT NOT, THANKFULLY,  
A SUPERMAN!



FIRST I'LL  
SEAL THE  
HOLE I SMASHED  
IN THE LAVA  
DOME TO  
ENSURE AGAINST  
A VOLCANIC  
ERUPTION--



--AND THEN SEE WHAT  
I CAN DO ABOUT  
FREEING THE CAPTIVE  
LEADERS BEFORE  
PUTTING THE  
PLANETEER'S  
MAGNET-MACHINE OUT  
OF COMMISSION.



HOLD TIGHT, SIR-- I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF  
THERE IN A MINUTE! I CAN'T DESTROY THE  
MAGNETIC DEVICE UNTIL YOU'RE FREE, OR THE  
FORCE-FIELD WILL DISSOLVE INSTANTLY...

--AND WHILE I'M  
INVULNERABLE  
TO THE SUPER-  
HEATED LAVA,  
YOU'RE NOT!

AND A GOOD THING, TOO.  
PLANETEER PLANNED HIS  
TRAPS WELL. NO MORTAL  
MAN COULD GET BY HIS  
DEFENSES ALIVE --



--AND HE MUST BELIEVE THAT BY DEFEATING ME  
AT GIZA, HE'D PUT ME OUT OF THE PICTURE.  
FORTUNATELY, I'M AS  
PERSISTENT AS HE IS  
COCKY AND  
... EH?

GREAT  
KRYPTON--  
I'M... ON  
FIRE...?!





THIS IS... *IMPOSSIBLE!* THERE'RE FLAMES ALL OVER ME... BUT I'M NOT BURNING! UNLESS...

... UNLESS THIS IS JUST ANOTHER OF PLANETEER'S HALLUCINATIONS-- LIKE THOSE SEA-SERPENTS I "FOUGHT" EARLIER!

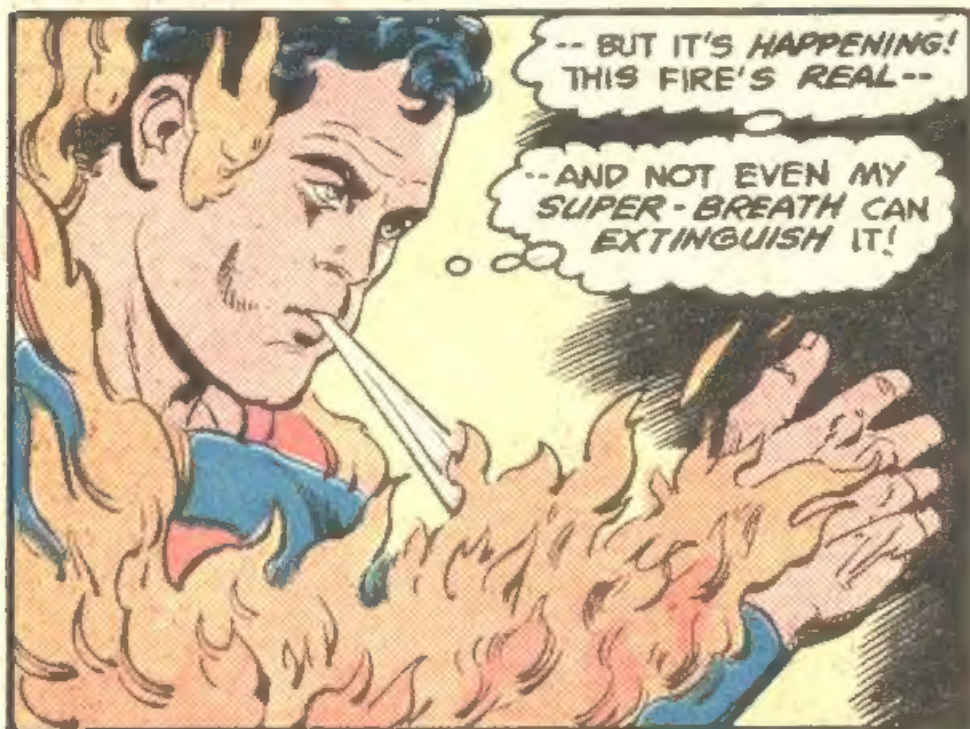


NO MATTER, THOUGH -- WHETHER THEY'RE REAL OR *IMAGINED*, THE FLAMES CAN'T HURT ME, AND THE WORLD-LEADERS ARE PROTECTED BY THE SAME FORCE-FIELD KEEPING OUT THE LAYA.

*S-SUPERMAN...* WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THOSE FLAMES... THEY BURN!

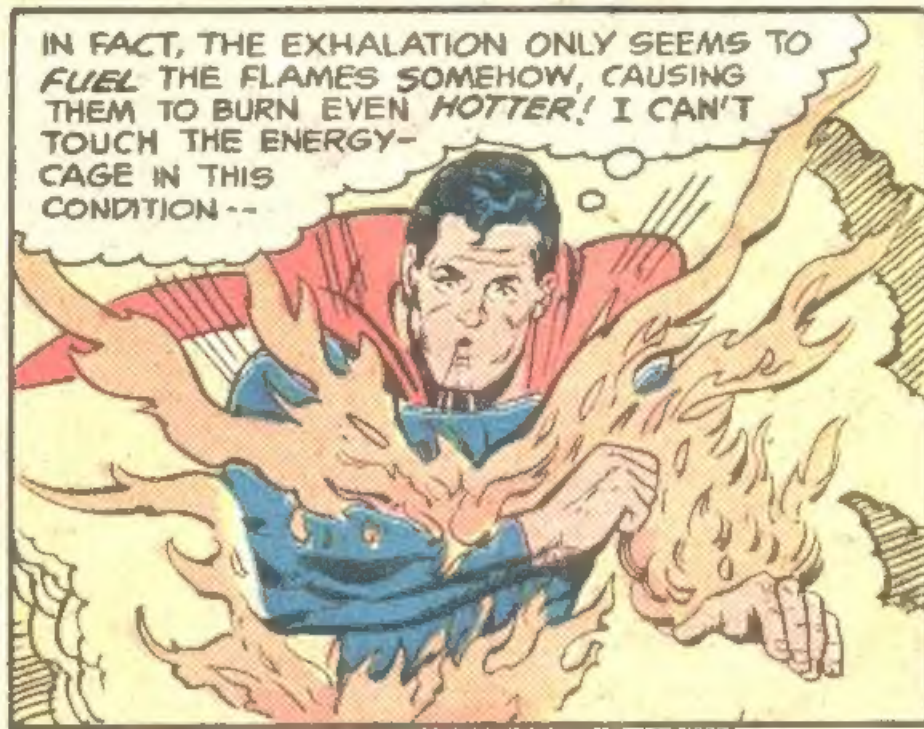
BY LENIN'S GHOST-- STOP!

INCREDIBLE--

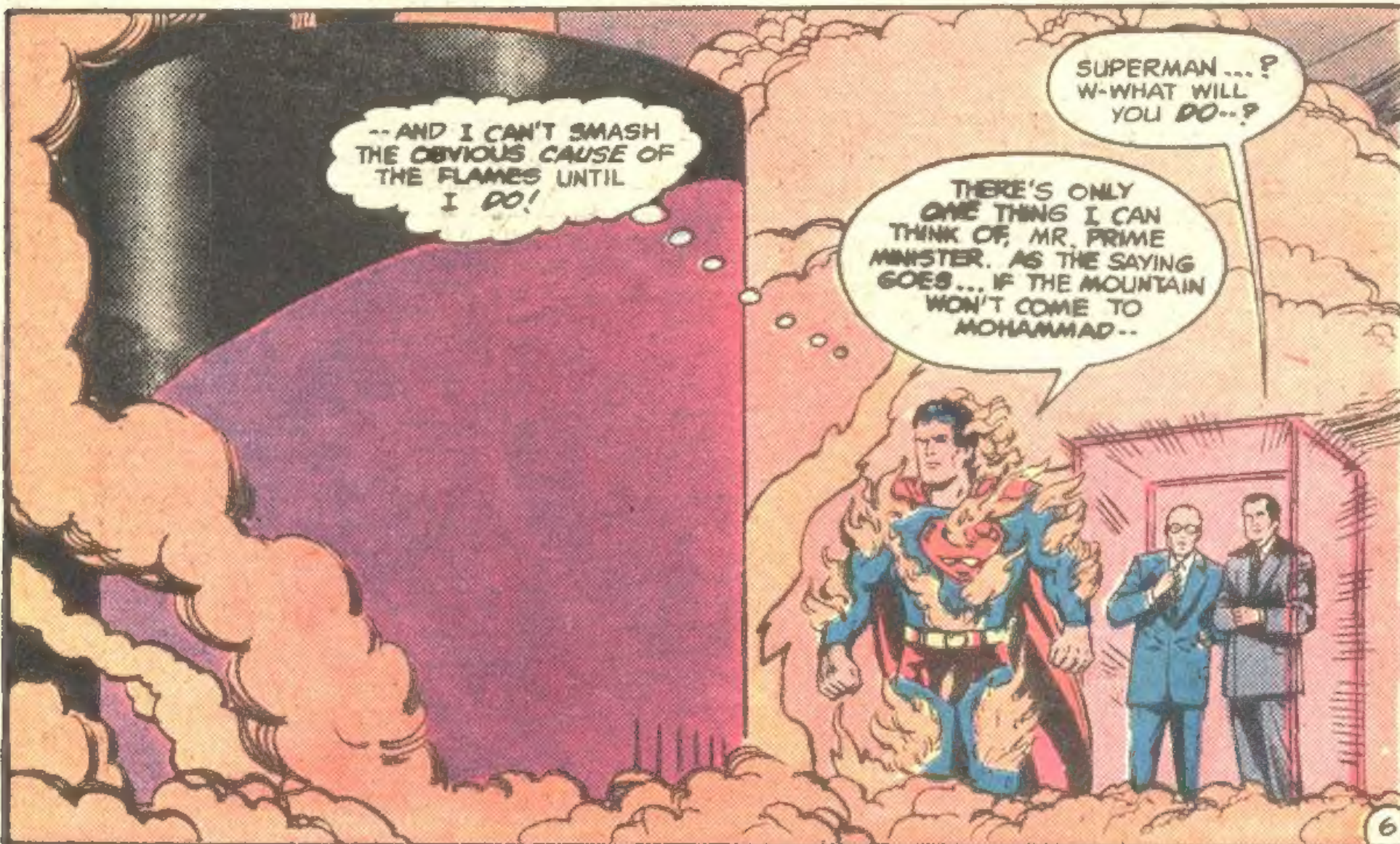


-- BUT IT'S HAPPENING! THIS FIRE'S REAL--

-- AND NOT EVEN MY SUPER-BREATH CAN EXTINGUISH IT!



IN FACT, THE EXHALATION ONLY SEEMS TO FUEL THE FLAMES SOMEHOW, CAUSING THEM TO BURN EVEN HOTTER! I CAN'T TOUCH THE ENERGY-CAGE IN THIS CONDITION--



-- AND I CAN'T SMASH THE OBVIOUS CAUSE OF THE FLAMES UNTIL I DO!

SUPERMAN...? W-WHAT WILL YOU DO--?

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN THINK OF, MR. PRIME MINISTER. AS THE SAYING GOES... IF THE MOUNTAIN WON'T COME TO MOHAMMAD--

-- THEN MOHAMMAD WILL JUST HAVE TO MOVE THE MOUNTAIN ... OR WORDS TO THAT EFFECT!

ONCE I REMOVE THE MAGNETIC-GENERATOR FROM THIS SPOT, THESE FLAMES OUGHT TO...  
UGH!

NO GOOD! THE SUPER-MAGNETISM IS KEEPING THE MACHINE ROOTED FIRMLY TO THE GROUND! IT'S DEIVING EVEN MY SUPER-STRENGTH!

I CAN'T BUDGE IT!

FOR LONG MOMENTS, THE MAN OF STEEL PONDERES THIS DILEMMA, HIS MIND WORKING FASTER THAN THE FASTEST COMPUTER YET DEvised BY MAN--

-- UNTIL ... OF COURSE! THE METAL CASING ON THE MAGNET'S UNAFFECTED BY THE HEAT OF THE LAVA AND THE FLAMES SURROUNDING ME--

-- WHICH MAKES IT--

-- THE PERFECT MATERIAL --

-- THE FORCE-FIELD CAGE --

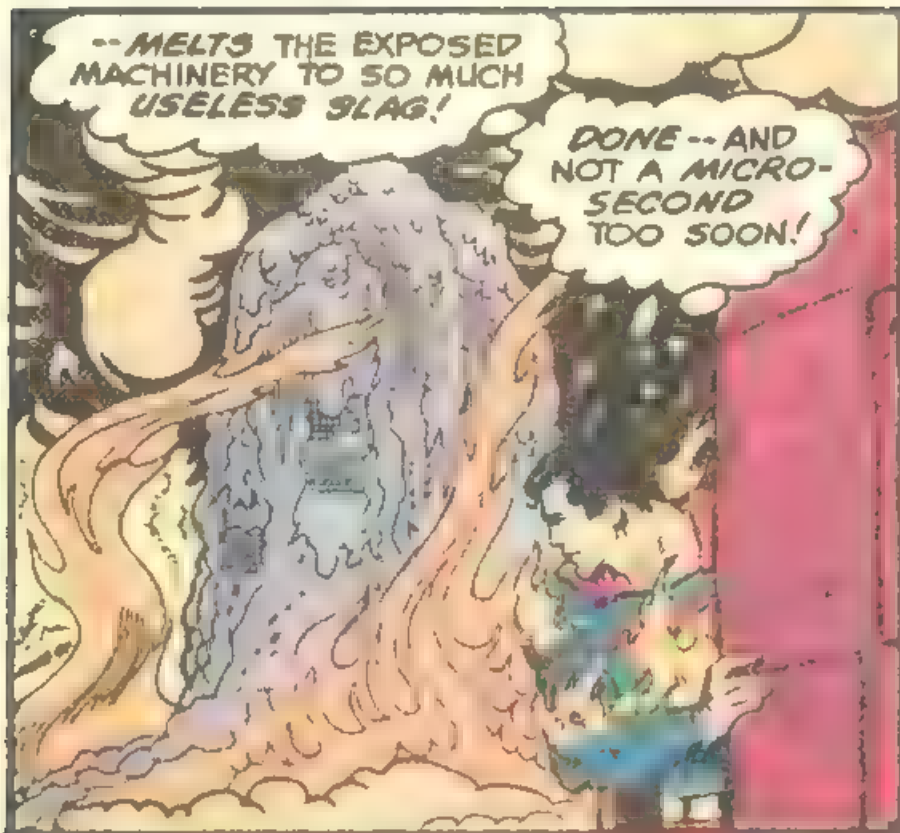
-- TO SHIELD --

-- FROM BOTH ME --

-- AND THE LAVA! BUT --

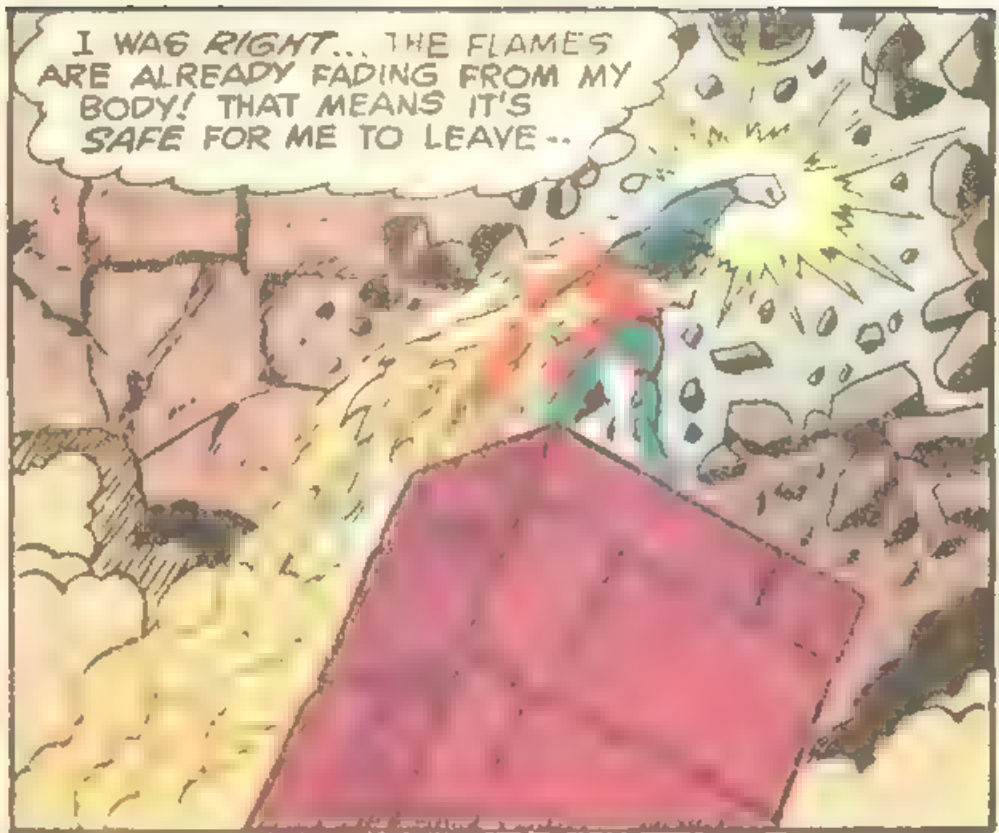
-- I'VE GOT TO WORK FAST --

-- BEFORE THE EXTREME HEAT --

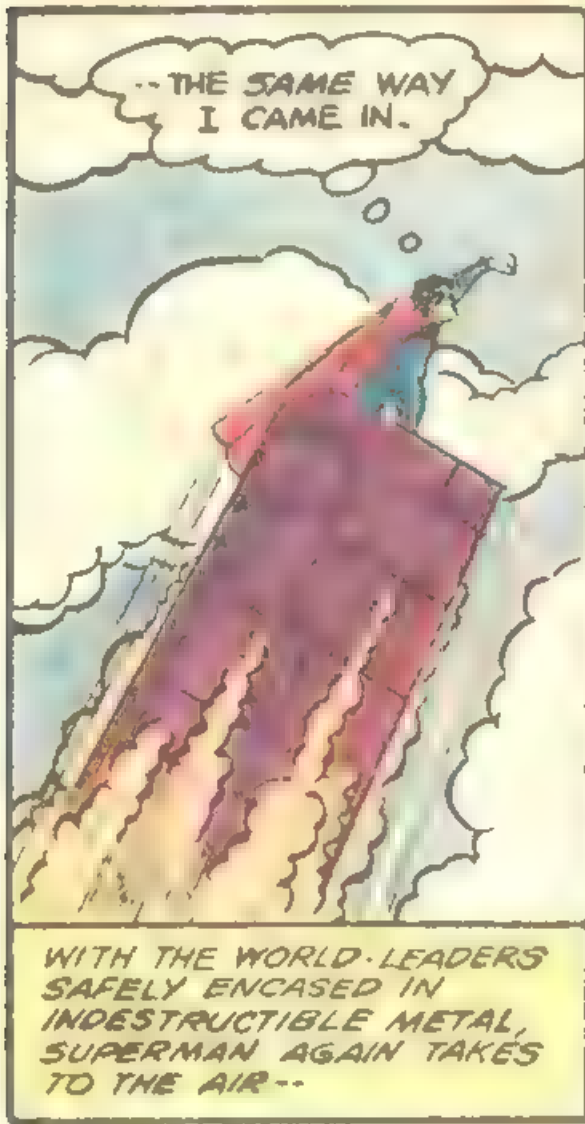


--MELTS THE EXPOSED MACHINERY TO SO MUCH USELESS SLAG!

DONE--AND NOT A MICRO-SECOND TOO SOON!



I WAS RIGHT... THE FLAMES ARE ALREADY FADING FROM MY BODY! THAT MEANS IT'S SAFE FOR ME TO LEAVE--



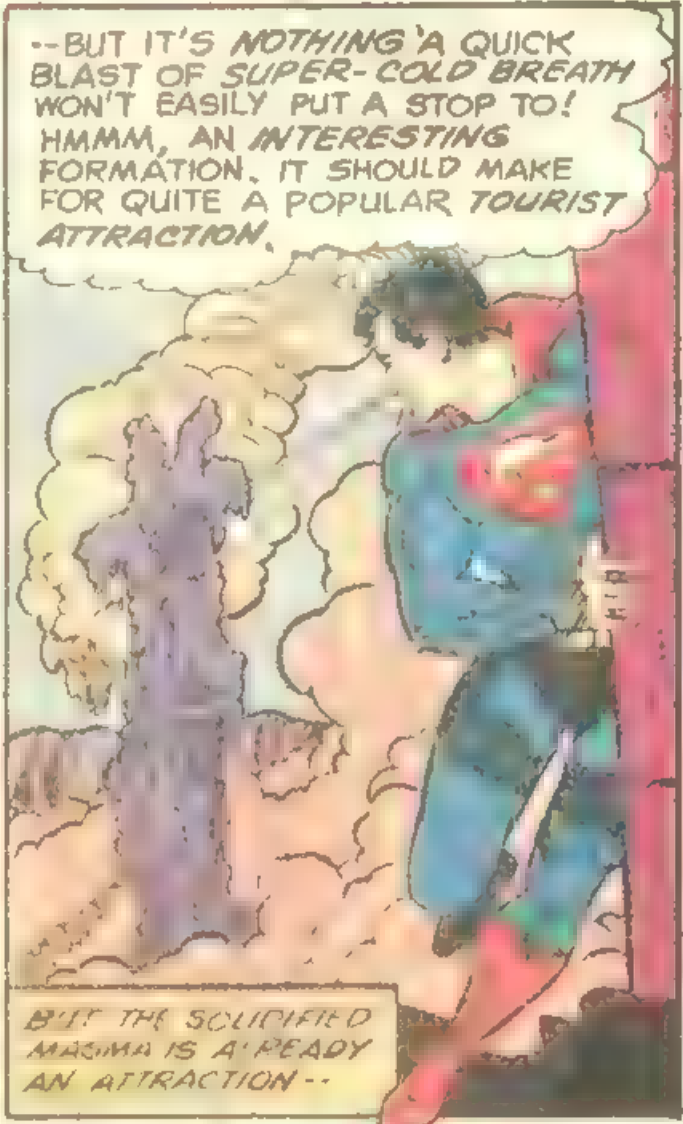
--THE SAME WAY I CAME IN.

WITH THE WORLD-LEADERS SAFELY ENCASED IN INDESTRUCTIBLE METAL, SUPERMAN AGAIN TAKES TO THE AIR--



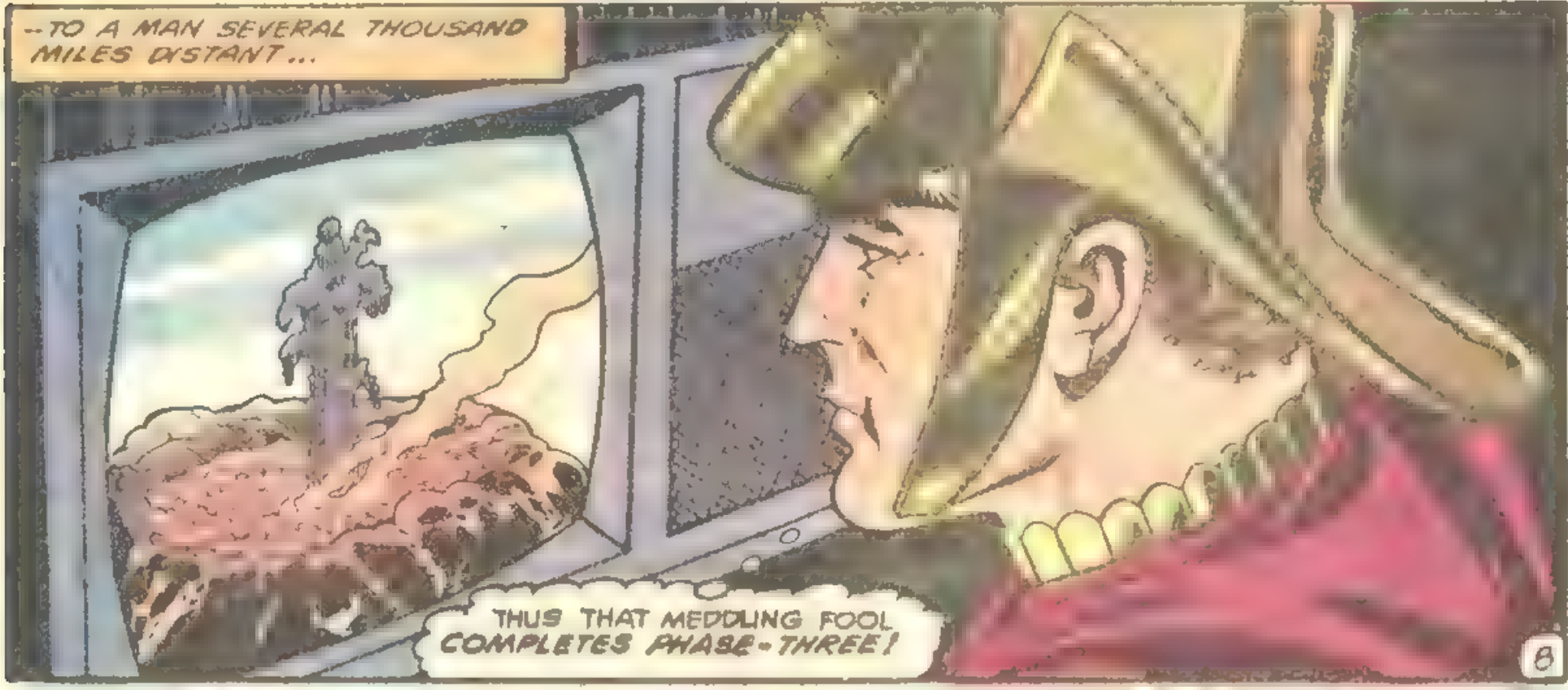
--BUT NOT ALONE.

OH-OH... MOLTEN LAVA'S ERUPTING FROM MY ESCAPE-HOLE--



--BUT IT'S NOTHING 'A QUICK BLAST OF SUPER-COLD BREATH WON'T EASILY PUT A STOP TO! HMMM, AN INTERESTING FORMATION. IT SHOULD MAKE FOR QUITE A POPULAR TOURIST ATTRACTION.

BUT THE SOLIDIFIED MAGMA IS A READY AN ATTRACTION--



--TO A MAN SEVERAL THOUSAND MILES DISTANT...

THUS THAT MEDDLING FOOL COMPLETES PHASE-THREE!

ANSWERS: SOFT, SMOOTH, JUICY, YUMMY, PINK, BUBBLES.  
SURPRISE WORD: IT'S A M O U T H F U L OF YUM!

MOMENTS LATER.

HE DOES NOT EVEN WAIT TO HEAR OUR WORDS OF THANKS BEFORE RUSHING OFF...?

BECAUSE TWO OF OUR NUMBER ARE STILL MISSING, MR. PREMIER-- AND OUR PREOCCUPIED FRIEND IS THE ONLY MAN ON EARTH WHO CAN FIND THEM!

I APPRECIATE THE PRIME MINISTER'S FAITH--

--BUT FRANKLY, I'M STUMPED! I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST HINT AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN LEADERS... OR THE PLANETEER!

AFTER A FACTORY, A DEEP-SEA TRENCH AND A FIERY VOLCANO, WHERE COULD THEY BE? I--

RAO! HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED IT... IT'S SO OBVIOUS! AT THE FACTORY, I FACED AN EARTHEN CREATURE, THEN WATER AND FIRE--

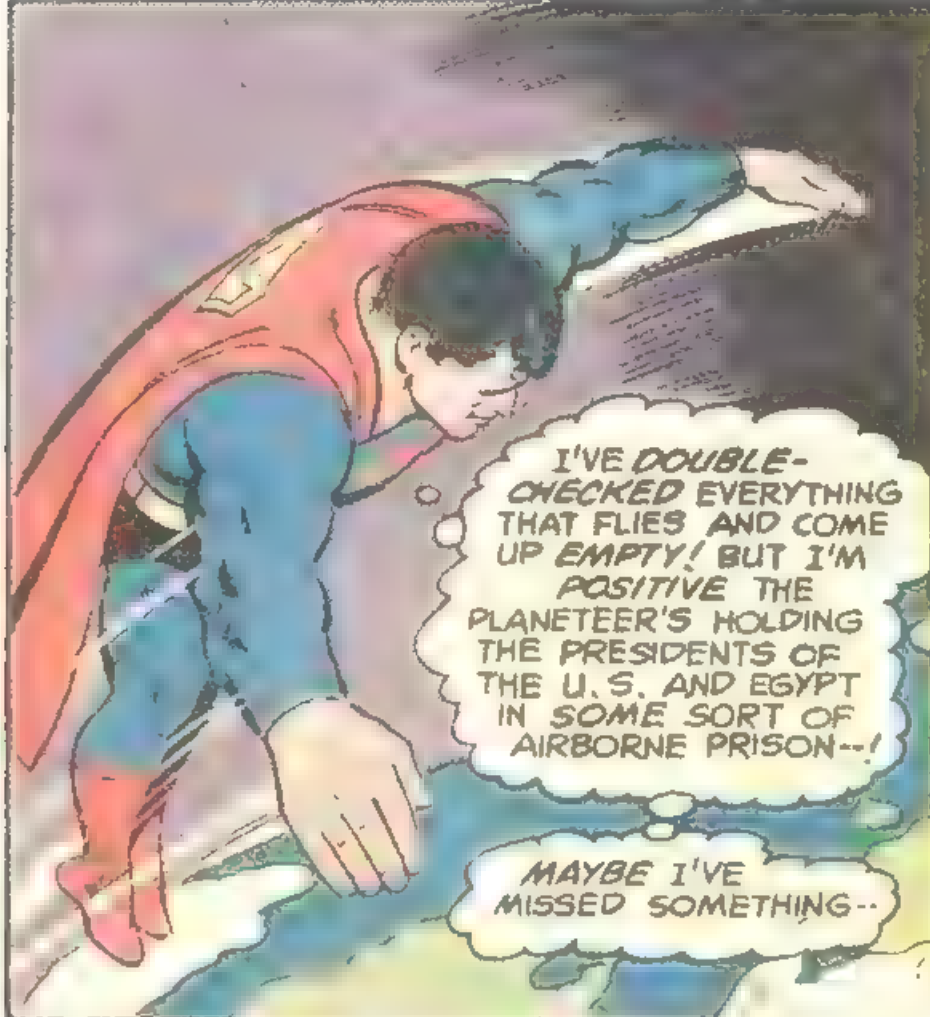
--THREE OF THE FOUR ANCIENT ELEMENTS! WHICH LEAVES--

--AIR! IN ALEXANDER THE GREAT'S TIME, THESE WERE BELIEVED TO BE THE FOUR BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE COSMOS. TODAY, MANKIND KNOWS THERE TO BE MORE TO THE UNIVERSE THAN THAT.

BUT FOR NOW, THE BASICS WILL DO. AND FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW, THE METROPOLIS MARVEL SPEEDS THROUGH THAT VERY ELEMENT--

--SCANNING WITH X-RAY VISION ANYTHING THAT FLIES OR FLOATS IN THE SKIES ABOVE--

--IN FUTILITY. 9



I'VE DOUBLE-CHECKED EVERYTHING THAT FLIES AND COME UP EMPTY! BUT I'M POSITIVE THE PLANETEER'S HOLDING THE PRESIDENTS OF THE U.S. AND EGYPT IN SOME SORT OF AIRBORNE PRISON--!

MAYBE I'VE MISSED SOMETHING--



-- BUT I DOUBT IT!

I CAN'T GIVE UP THE SEARCH, THOUGH. AND EVEN IF I HAVE TO CIRCLE THE EARTH A THOUSAND MORE TIMES UNTIL I FIND THEM--

--I WILL!

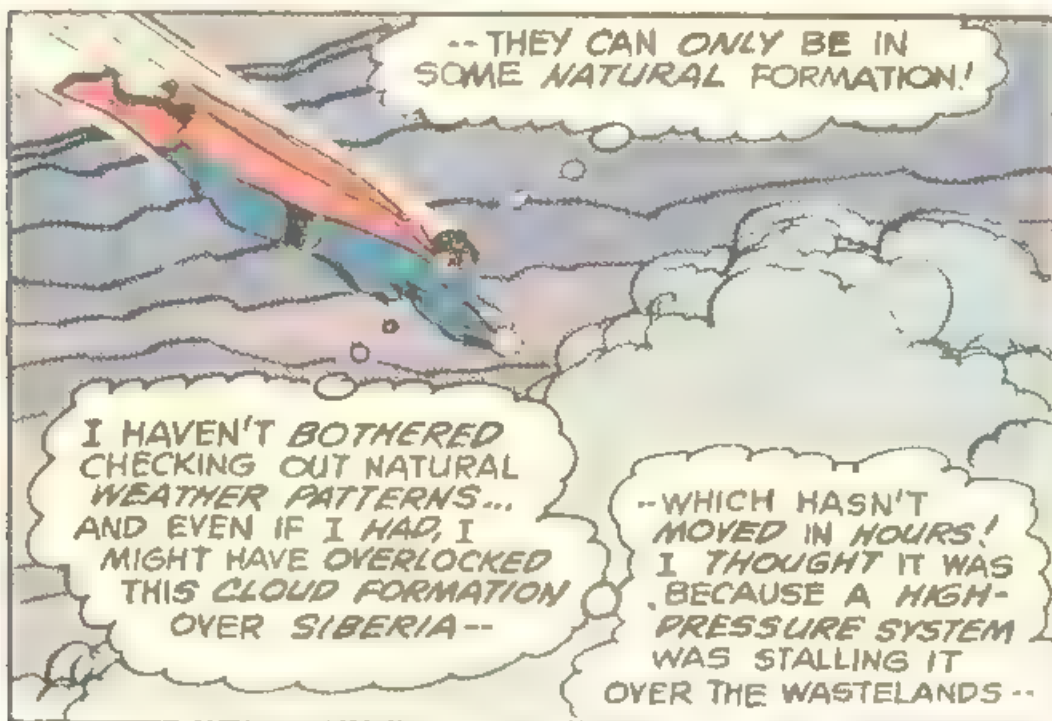
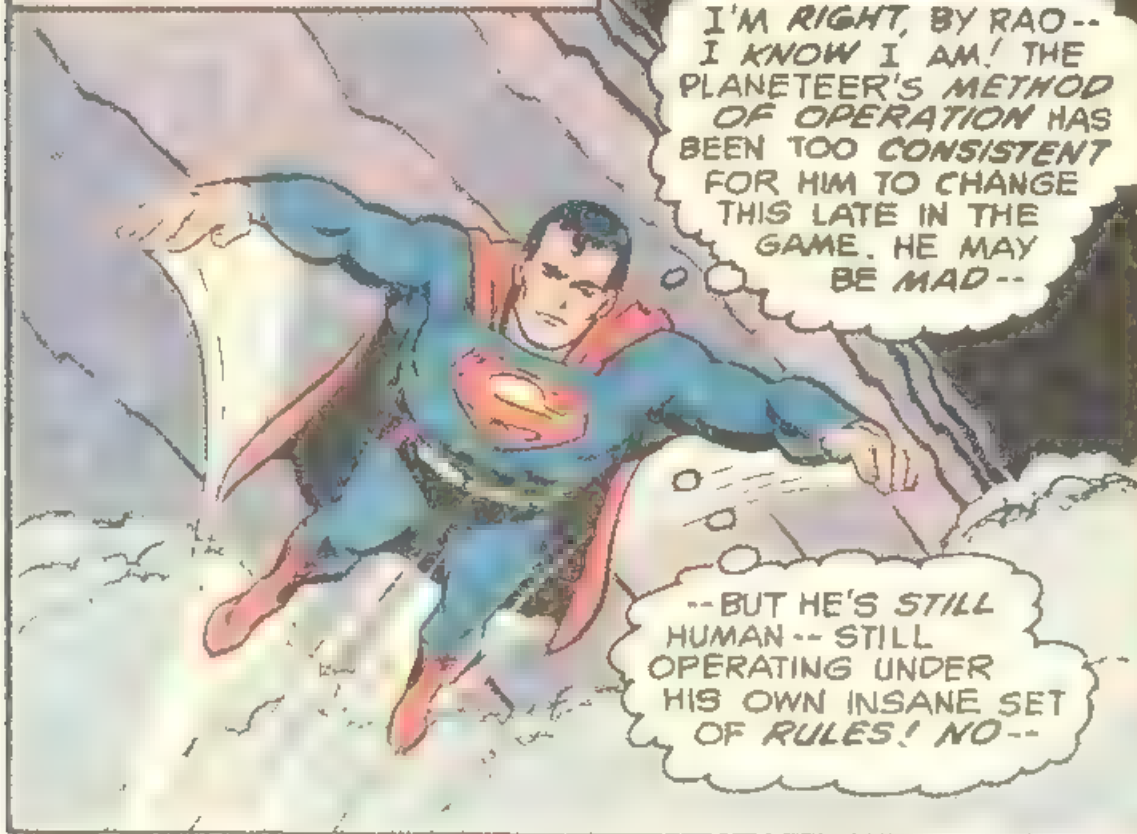
YET OFTEN, THE GREATEST OF DETERMINATION MAY FAIL EVEN A MAN OF STEEL IF THAT WHICH HE SEARCHES FOR--

-- SIMPLY IS NOT THERE!

I'M RIGHT, BY RAO-- I KNOW I AM! THE PLANETEER'S METHOD OF OPERATION HAS BEEN TOO CONSISTENT FOR HIM TO CHANGE THIS LATE IN THE GAME. HE MAY BE MAD--

-- BUT HE'S STILL HUMAN-- STILL OPERATING UNDER HIS OWN INSANE SET OF RULES! NO--

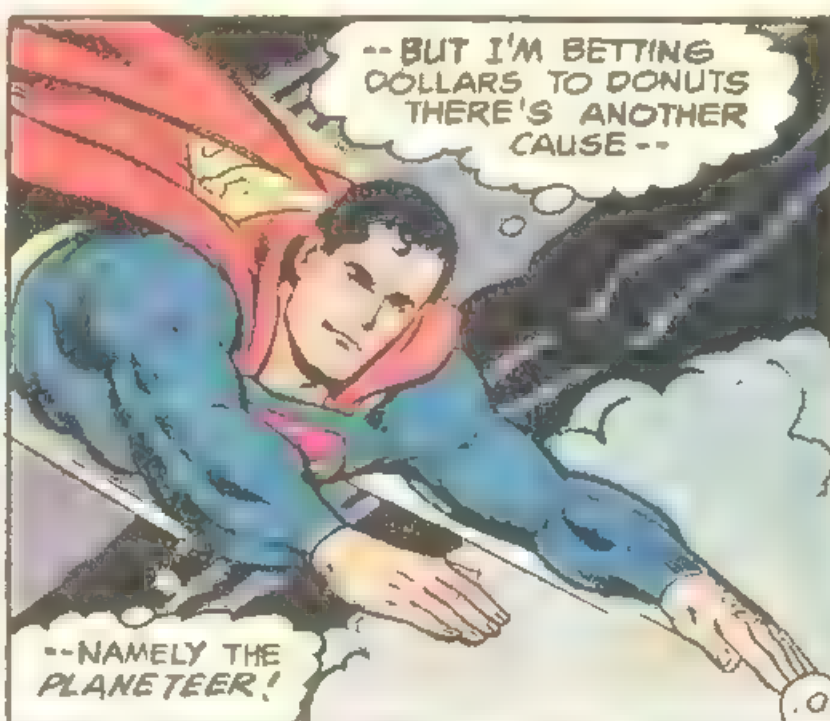
-- THE MISTAKE MUST BE SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MISSING! AND IF HE'S NOT HOLDING THE WORLD-LEADERS IN A MAN-MADE CRAFT--



-- THEY CAN ONLY BE IN SOME NATURAL FORMATION!

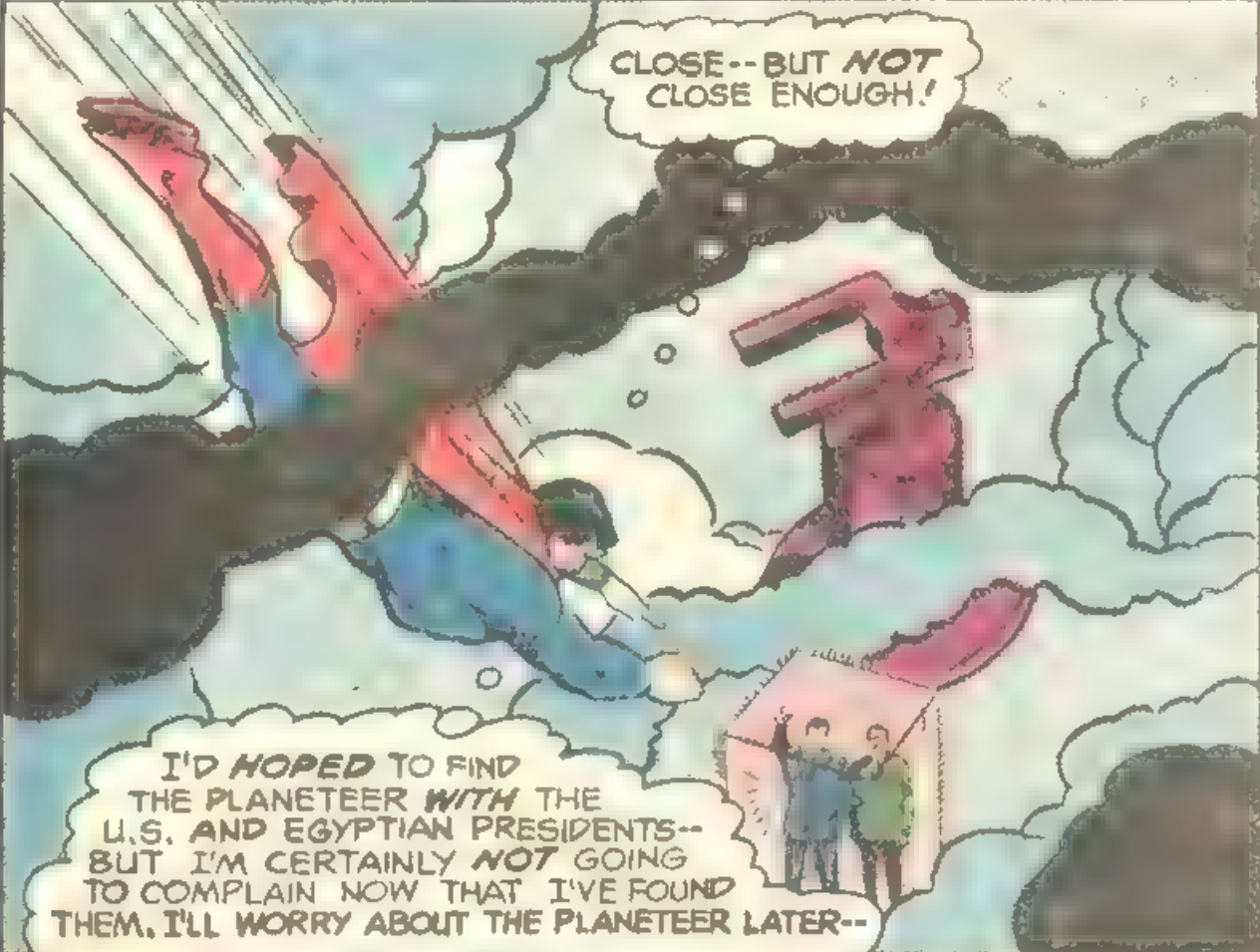
I HAVEN'T BOTHERED CHECKING OUT NATURAL WEATHER PATTERNS... AND EVEN IF I HAD, I MIGHT HAVE OVERLOOKED THIS CLOUD FORMATION OVER SIBERIA--

-- WHICH HASN'T MOVED IN HOURS! I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE A HIGH-PRESSURE SYSTEM WAS STALLING IT OVER THE WASTELANDS --



-- BUT I'M BETTING DOLLARS TO DONUTS THERE'S ANOTHER CAUSE--

-- NAMELY THE PLANETEER!

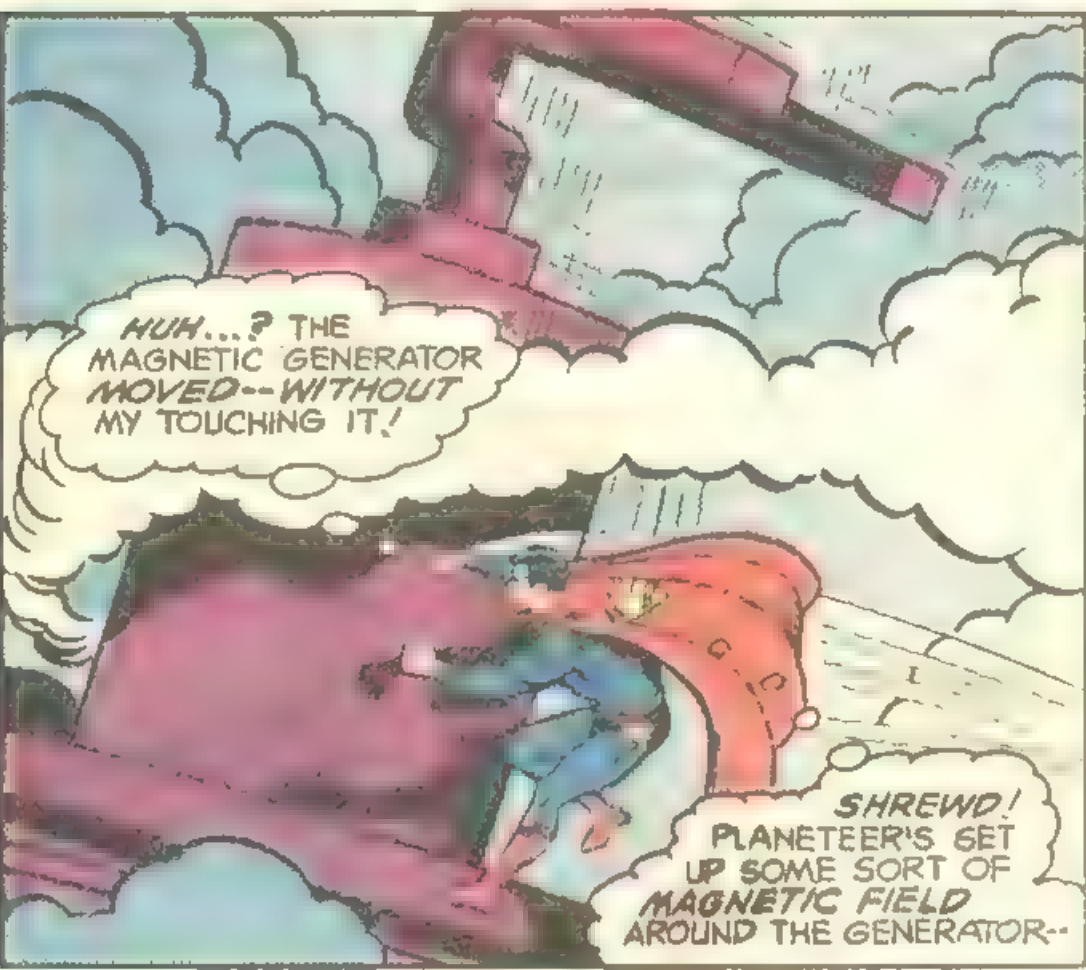


CLOSE-- BUT *NOT* CLOSE ENOUGH!

I'D HOPED TO FIND THE PLANETEER WITH THE U.S. AND EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTS-- BUT I'M CERTAINLY *NOT* GOING TO COMPLAIN NOW THAT I'VE FOUND THEM. I'LL WORRY ABOUT THE PLANETEER LATER--

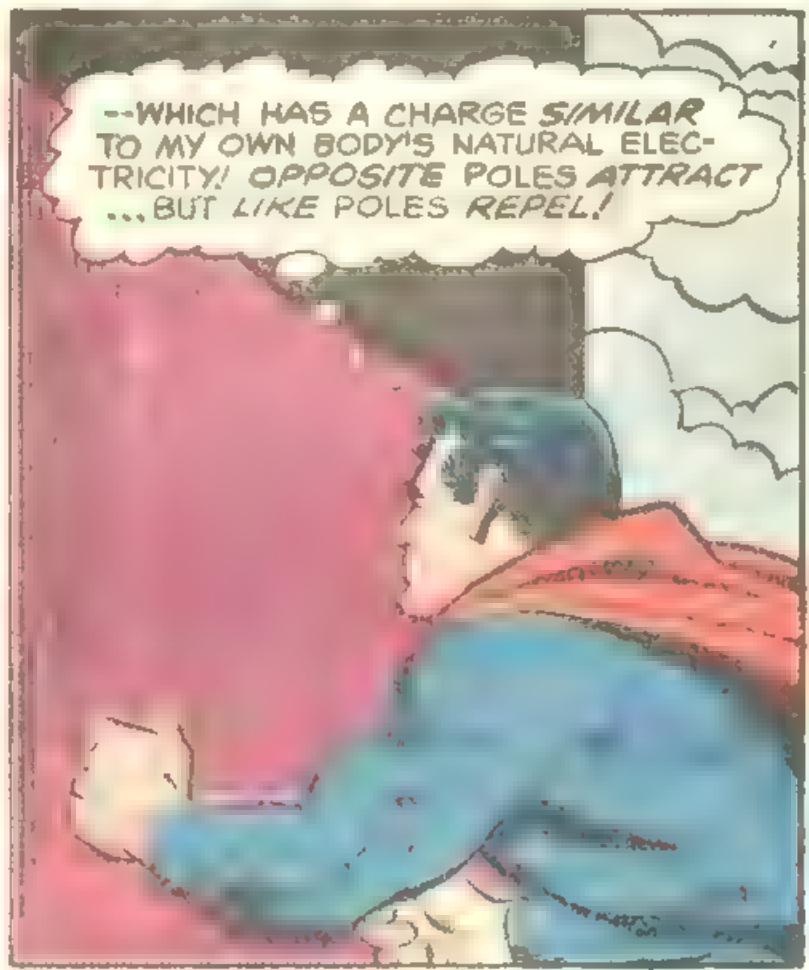


--ONCE I FREE THESE MEN FROM THIS *FLOATING PRISON*. IT'LL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT THAT MANIAC'S DEVISED TO PROTECT *THIS* SET-UP.



HUH...? THE MAGNETIC GENERATOR MOVED-- WITHOUT MY TOUCHING IT!

SHREWD! PLANETEER'S SET UP SOME SORT OF MAGNETIC FIELD AROUND THE GENERATOR--

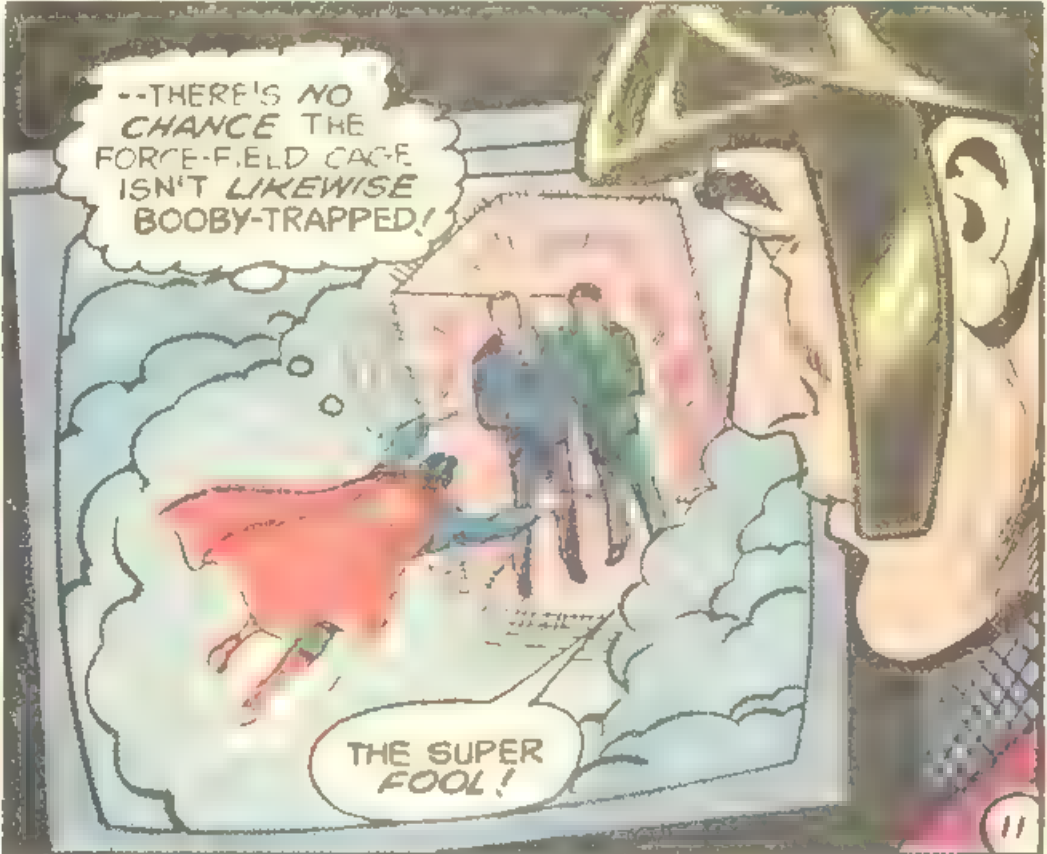


--WHICH HAS A CHARGE *SIMILAR* TO MY OWN BODY'S NATURAL ELECTRICITY! *OPPOSITE POLES ATTRACT* ... BUT LIKE POLES REPEL!



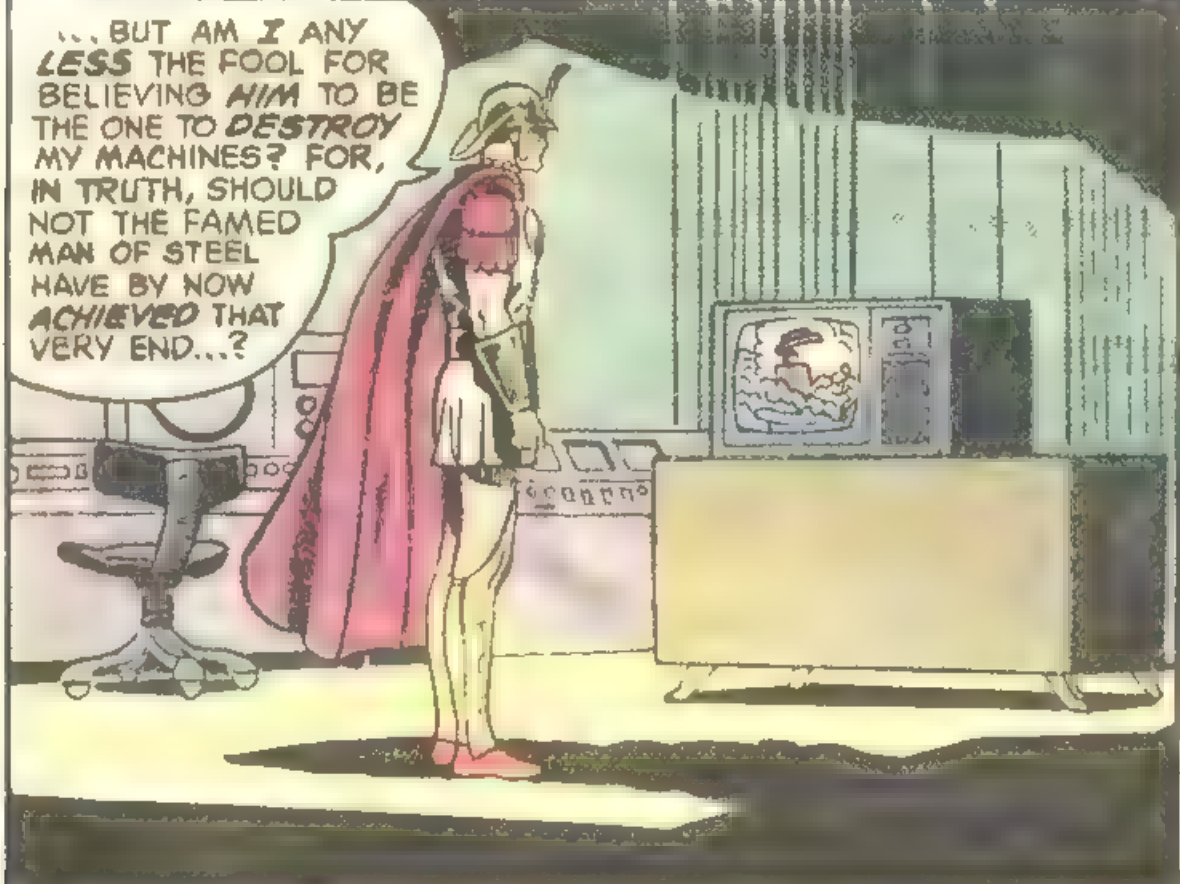
THUS IT'S KEPT INEXORABLY AWAY FROM ME-- *REPELLED* BY MY BODY'S CHARGE!

AND IF HE THOUGHT TO RIG THE GENERATOR THAT WAY--

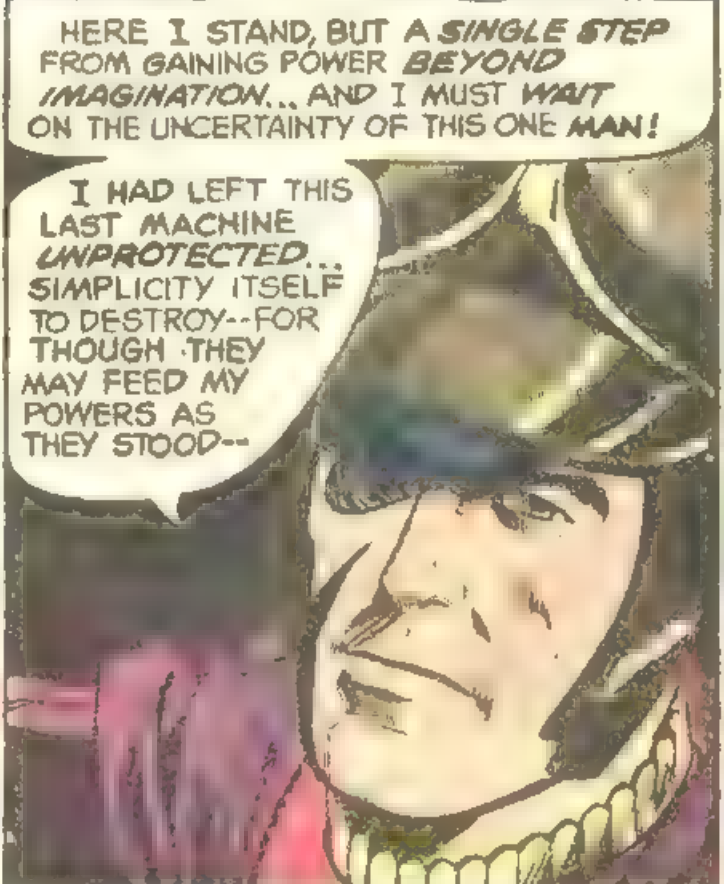


--THERE'S NO CHANCE THE FORCE-FIELD CAGE ISN'T *LIKEWISE* BOOBY-TRAPPED!

THE SUPER FOOL!

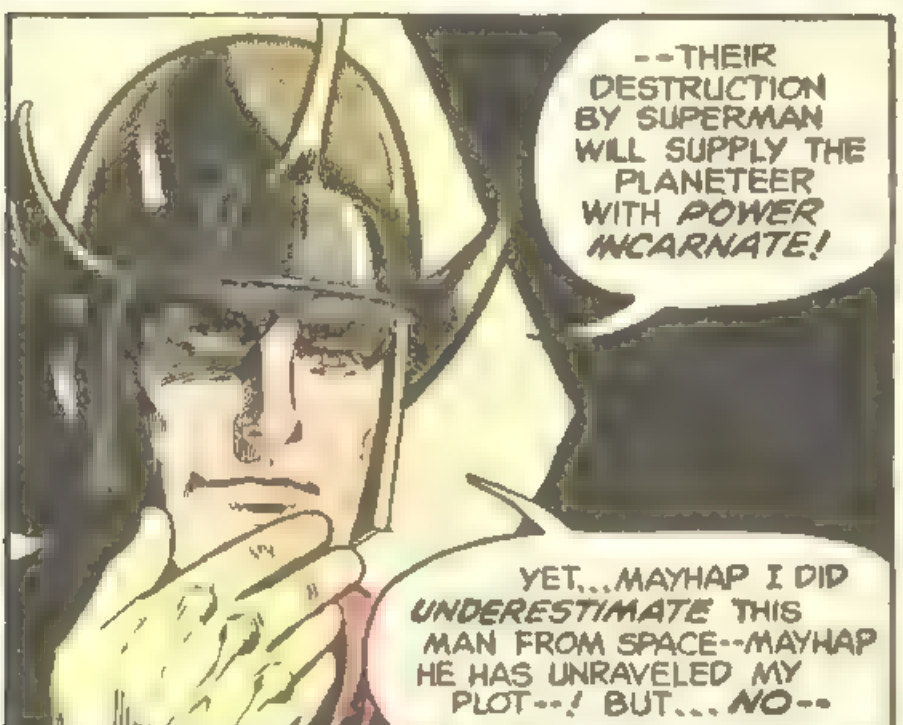


...BUT AM I ANY LESS THE FOOL FOR BELIEVING HIM TO BE THE ONE TO DESTROY MY MACHINES? FOR, IN TRUTH, SHOULD NOT THE FAMED MAN OF STEEL HAVE BY NOW ACHIEVED THAT VERY END...?



HERE I STAND, BUT A SINGLE STEP FROM GAINING POWER BEYOND IMAGINATION... AND I MUST WAIT ON THE UNCERTAINTY OF THIS ONE MAN!

I HAD LEFT THIS LAST MACHINE UNPROTECTED... SIMPLICITY ITSELF TO DESTROY--FOR THOUGH THEY MAY FEED MY POWERS AS THEY STOOD--



--THEIR DESTRUCTION BY SUPERMAN WILL SUPPLY THE PLANETEER WITH POWER INCARNATE!

YET... MAYHAP I DID UNDERESTIMATE THIS MAN FROM SPACE--MAYHAP HE HAS UNRAVELED MY PLOT--! BUT... NO--

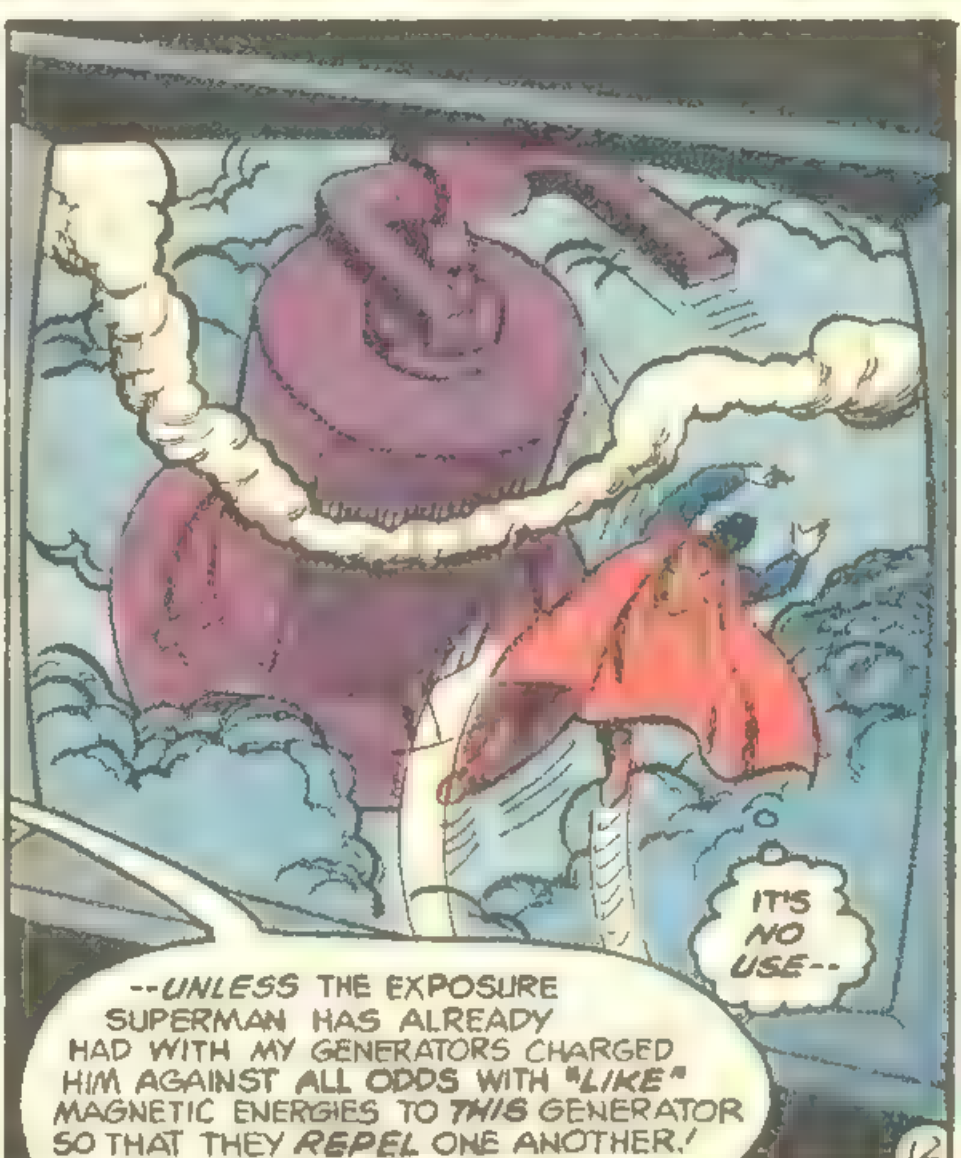


--FOR THOUGH HE BE SUPERMAN, I REMAIN ALEXANDER THE GREAT! HE WILL SMASH MY MACHINE--



--AND THEN ALEXANDER SHALL AGAIN RULE THE EARTH!

THEN WHY DOES HE CONTINUE TO FAIL ME...? WHY--



--UNLESS THE EXPOSURE SUPERMAN HAS ALREADY HAD WITH MY GENERATORS CHARGED HIM AGAINST ALL ODDS WITH "LIKE" MAGNETIC ENERGIES TO THIS GENERATOR SO THAT THEY REPEL ONE ANOTHER!

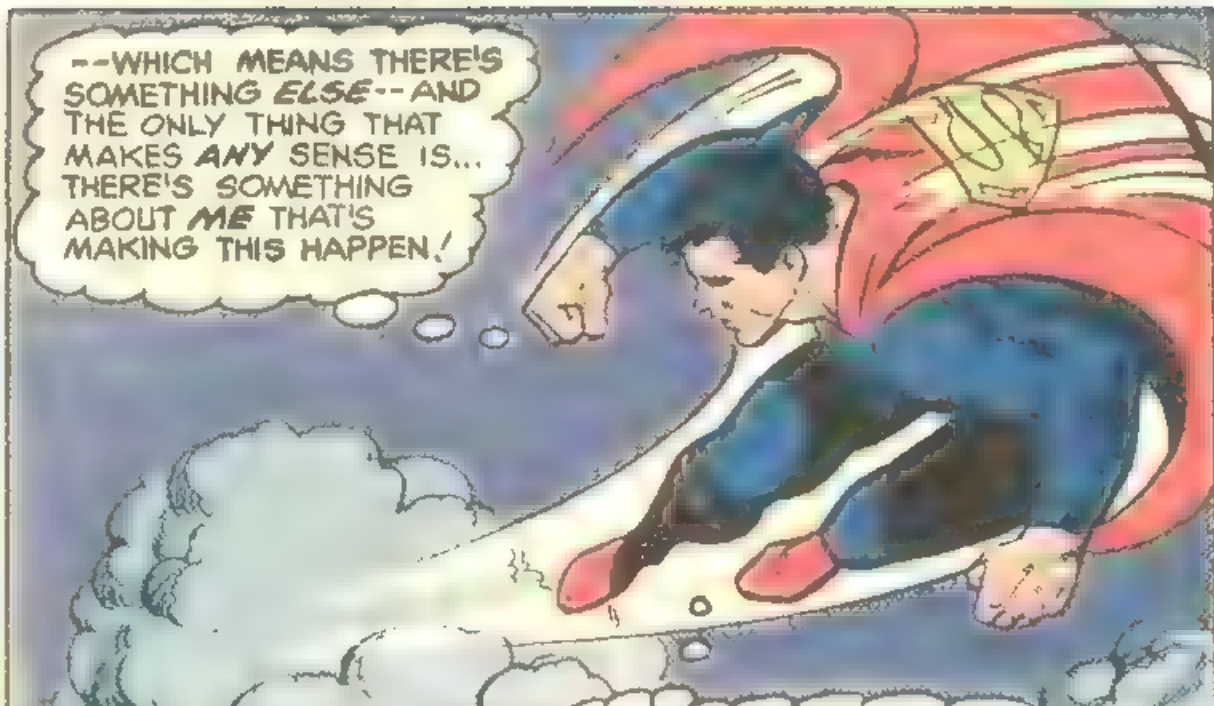
IT'S NO USE--

...AND I'M BEGINNING TO THINK IT'S *NOTHING* TO DO WITH THE PLANETEER'S PLAN.



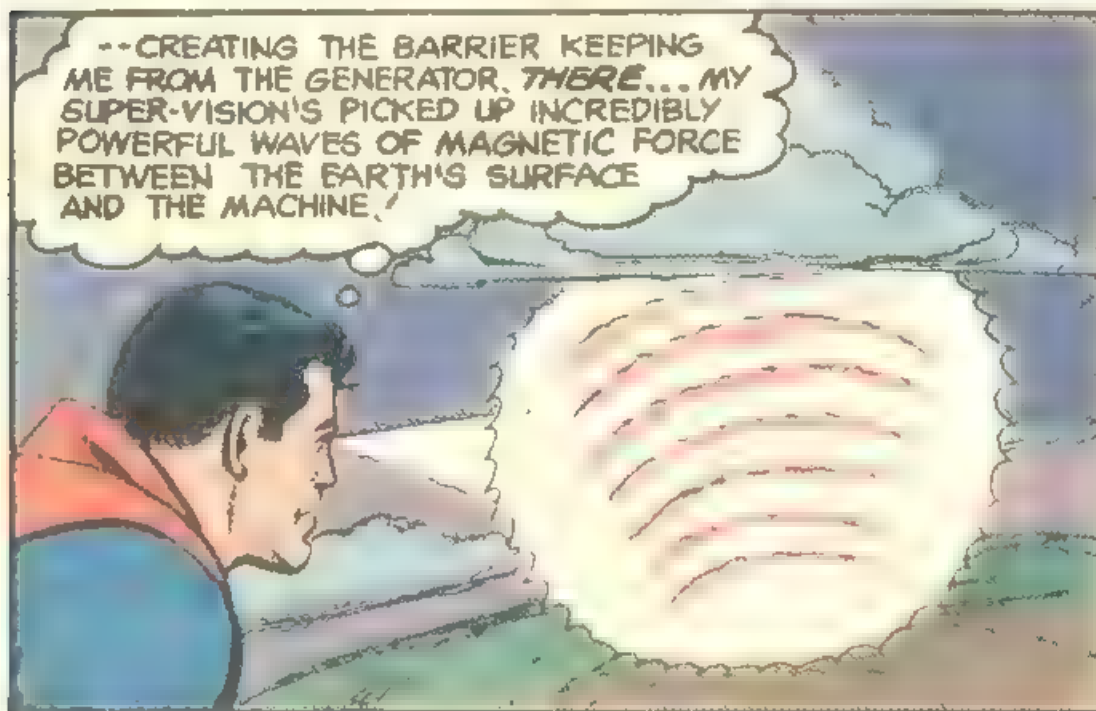
MY SUPER-VISION HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO DETECT ANYTHING *UNNATURAL* ABOUT THE MAGNETIC FIELD SURROUNDING THE GENERATOR

--WHICH MEANS THERE'S SOMETHING *ELSE*--AND THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES *ANY* SENSE IS... THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT *ME* THAT'S MAKING THIS HAPPEN!

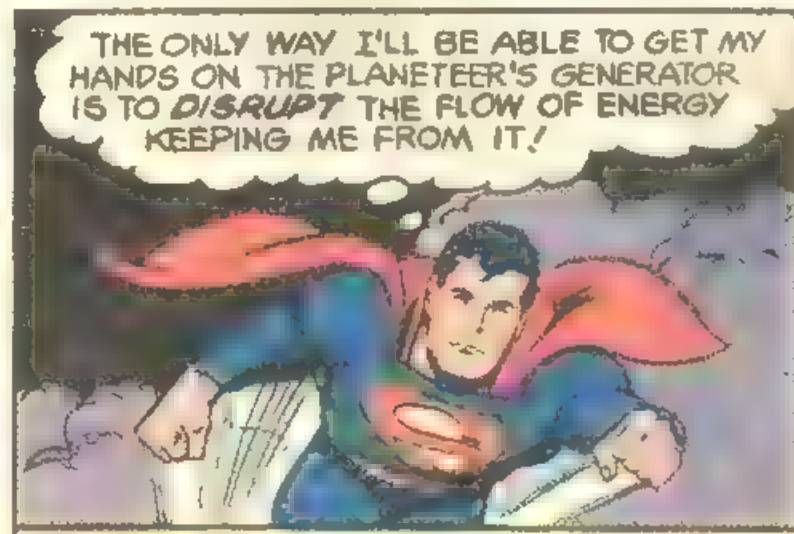


MAYBE MY PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO PLANETEER'S *OTHER* MACHINES SOMEHOW AFFECTED MY *OWN* MAGNETIC FIELD--

--CREATING THE BARRIER KEEPING ME FROM THE GENERATOR. *THERE...* MY SUPER-VISION'S PICKED UP INCREDIBLY POWERFUL WAVES OF MAGNETIC FORCE BETWEEN THE EARTH'S SURFACE AND THE MACHINE!

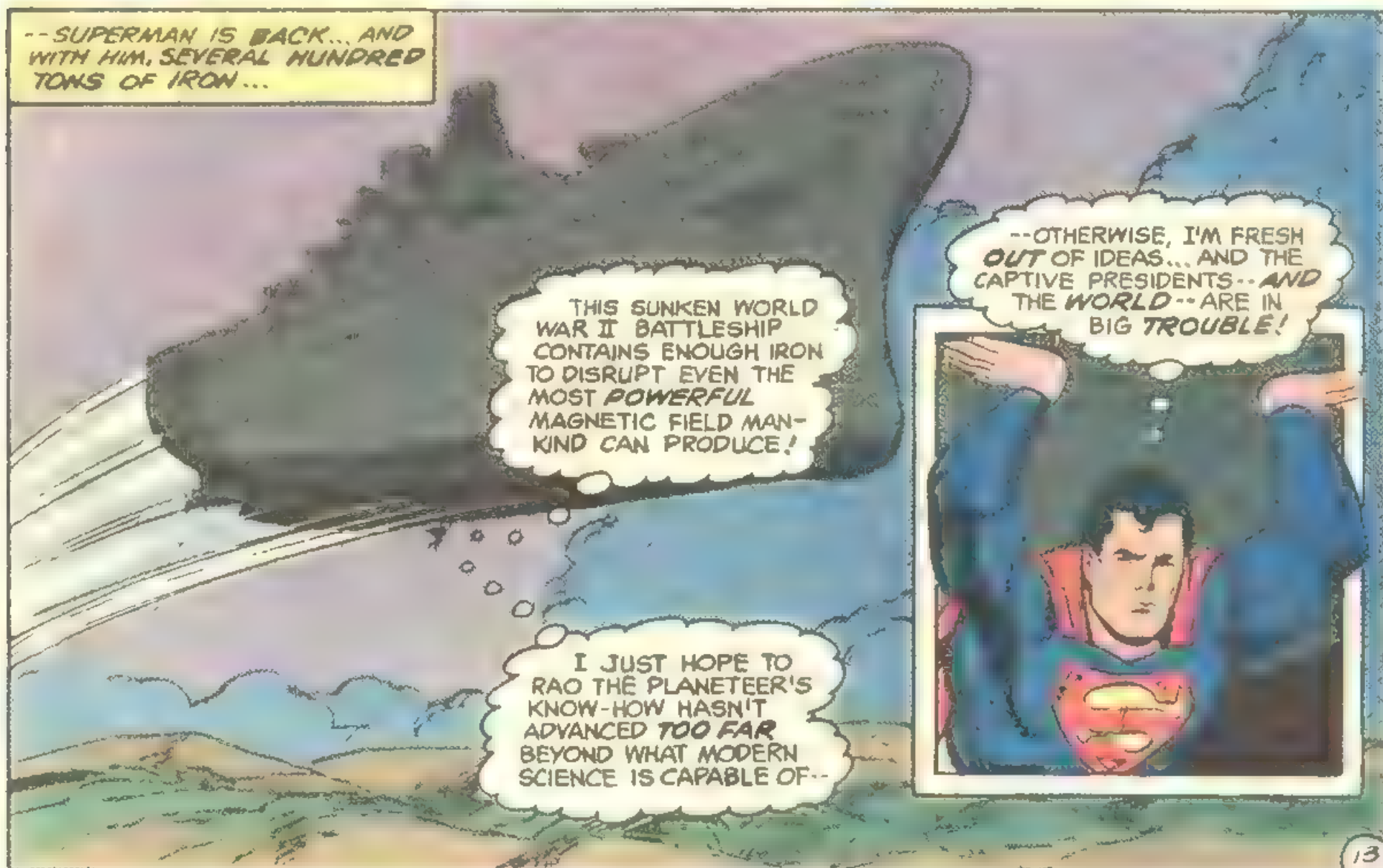


THE ONLY WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO GET MY HANDS ON THE PLANETEER'S GENERATOR IS TO *DISRUPT* THE FLOW OF ENERGY KEEPING ME FROM IT!



BEFORE THE ASTONISHED EYES OF THE WORLD-LEADERS ABOVE, THE MAN OF ACTION STREAKS EARTHWARD. YET EVEN BEFORE THEY CAN REGISTER THEIR DISBELIEF AT THIS ABANDONMENT--

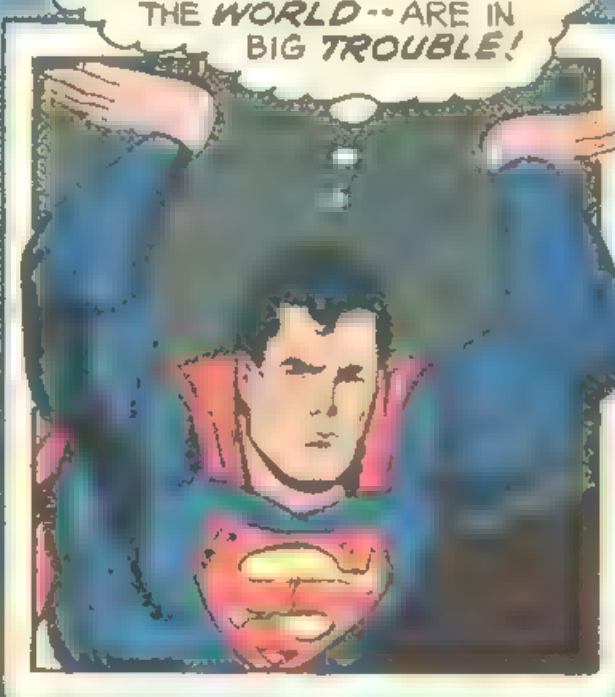
--SUPERMAN IS BACK... AND WITH HIM, SEVERAL HUNDRED TONS OF IRON...



THIS SUNKEN WORLD WAR II BATTLESHIP CONTAINS ENOUGH IRON TO DISRUPT EVEN THE MOST *POWERFUL* MAGNETIC FIELD MANKIND CAN PRODUCE!

I JUST HOPE TO RAO THE PLANETEER'S KNOW-HOW HASN'T ADVANCED *TOO FAR* BEYOND WHAT MODERN SCIENCE IS CAPABLE OF--

--OTHERWISE, I'M FRESH OUT OF IDEAS... AND THE CAPTIVE PRESIDENTS--AND THE *WORLD*--ARE IN BIG TROUBLE!



THEN TROUBLE THERE IS, FOR EVEN AS THE METROPOLIS ACE SPEEDS HIS BURDEN THROUGH THE SKIES, HE KNOWS...

...IT'S NOT WORKING!

THE MAGNETIC FIELD'S FLOWING RIGHT AROUND ME AND THE SHIP, STILL REPELLED BY MY BODILY CHARGE!

THAT'S TWO BATTLES THIS SHIP'S LOST! SO IT'S BACK WHERE IT CAME FROM--THE BOTTOM OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN--

--AND BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD FOR ME!

MAYBE A SUPER-POWERFUL ELECTRICAL CHARGE IS WHAT IT'LL TAKE TO DO THE JOB.

--PRODUCING INSTANT THUNDERSTORMS!

--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M STILL WASTING MY STRENGTH. THE FIELD'S AS STRONG AS EVER AND...HUH?

BY THE JEWEL MOUNTAINS... THERE, IN THE CLOUD--

A COMBINATION OF HEAT VISION AND SUPER-COLD BREATH OUGHT TO WHIP UP THE CLOUD'S NATURAL ENERGIES--

ELECTRICITY HAS BEEN KNOWN TO BREAK UP POWERFUL MAGNETIC CHARGES... UNHHH! I FELT THAT ONE--

--A DISRUPTION IN THE MAGNETIC CHARGE!

NOTHING I'VE DONE HAS HAD ANY EFFECT ON THAT CLOUD... BUT THERE'S ONE METHOD I HADN'T THOUGHT TO TRY--



--MYSELF!

MY VERY PRESENCE SEEMS TO BE CREATING A DISTURBANCE IN THE FIELD BY SETTING UP A COUNTER-FORCE IN THE MAGNETISM.

IF THAT'S SO, THEN ALL I HAVE TO DO IS KEEP SUPER-SPEEDING AROUND BENEATH THE CLOUD--

--FASTER AND FASTER--

--BREAKING IN AND OUT OF THE MAGNETIC WAVES--

--UNTIL--

--SOMETHING'S GOT TO GIVE!

IT DOES! AND SUDDENLY, THE INVISIBLE FORCE HOLDING BOTH MACHINE AND ENERGY ALIKE ALOFT SIMPLY IS NO LONGER THERE. AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT, THE GENERATOR ITSELF SIMPLY NO LONGER IS...



...AND UNKNOWN TO THE TRIUMPHANT SUPERMAN...

BY ZEUS... 'TIS DONE AT LAST!

--HIS TROUBLES HAVE JUST RESUMED!

I FEEL THE ENERGIES FLOODING MY BEING, FILLING MY EVERY MOLECULE WITH POWER BEYOND EVEN MY EXPECTATIONS--

--POWER TO RULE ALL OF PUNY MANKIND! HA HA HA HA!

NOR DOES THE PLANETEER WAIT TO  
INFORM A DISBELIEVING WORLD  
THAT IT IS SOON TO BOW BEFORE  
HIS MIGHT...

MOMMY... WH-WHAT  
HAPPENED TO "LAVERNE  
AND SHIRLEY"...?

ATTENTION,  
MY SUBJECTS--

--AND HEED THE WORDS OF YOUR  
MASTER... HE WHO WAS ONCE CALLED  
ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND  
SHALL BE SO NAMED ONCE AGAIN!  
I HAVE BUT TOYED WITH  
YOUR MIGHTIEST HERO--

--AND HE HAS DONE NAUGHT BUT FAIL...  
YET IN DOING SO, HAS MADE MY CONQUEST  
POSSIBLE! FOR IF HE CANNOT DEFEAT  
ALEXANDER, EVEN YOUR MISSILES AND  
BOMBS ARE AS NOTHING TO ME--

--AND YOUR LEADERS  
SHALL SOON SEE THE  
FUTILITY OF  
OPPOSING ME! BUT  
SEND YOUR CHAM-  
PION FROM THE  
STARS AGAINST  
ME--

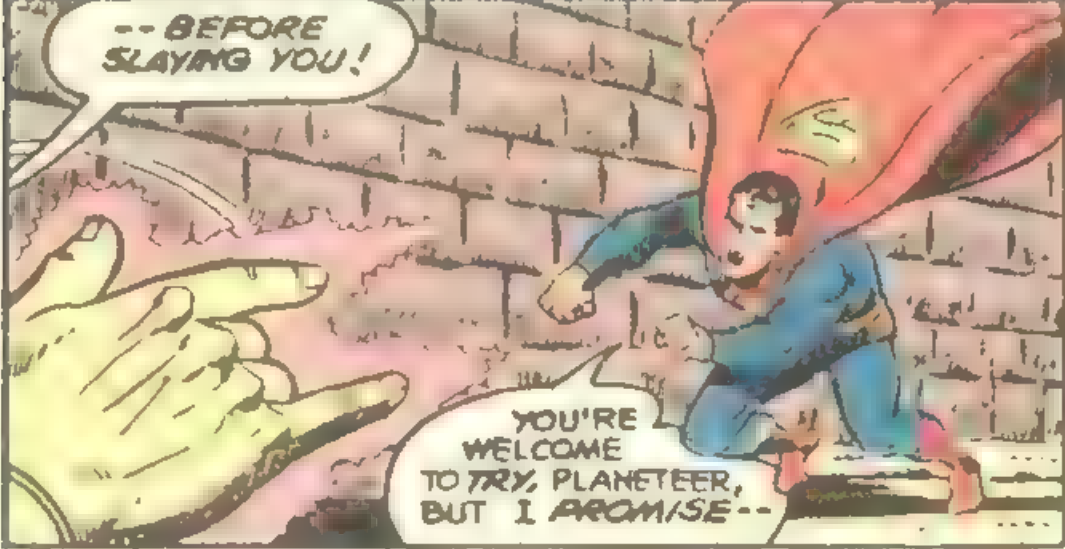
"--SO THAT THE  
WHOLE WORLD  
MAY WITNESS  
HIS FINAL,  
LASTING DEFEAT  
AND KNOW FOR  
ALL TIME THAT  
ALEXANDER IS  
SUPREME!"

I DON'T REALLY NEED MY SUPER-VISION  
TO HELP ME TRACE THE PLANETEER'S  
TELEVISION TRANSMISSION TO ITS  
SOURCE! ONE OF THE REAL  
ALEXANDER'S GREATEST  
TRIUMPHS WAS HIS CONQUEST  
OF EGYPT--

--AND SINCE THAT'S  
WHERE THE PLANETEER  
DEFEATED ME THE  
FIRST TIME WE MET,  
I'M BETTING I'LL  
FIND HIM AT GIZA!

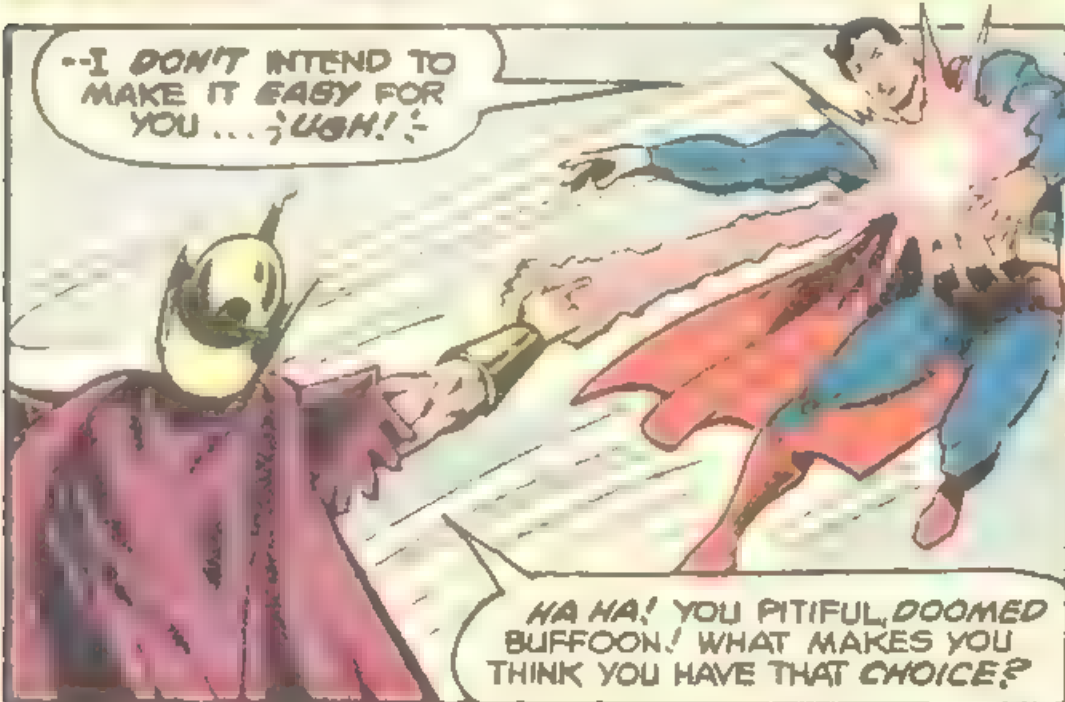
ALL RIGHT, PLANETEER--  
I'M HERE! WHAT'S NEXT  
ON YOUR WARPED  
AGENDA?

AS YOU MIGHT SURMISE,  
SUPERMAN, I NEXT PLAN  
TO HUMILIATE YOU IN  
THE EYES OF THE WORLD--



-- BEFORE  
SLAYING YOU!

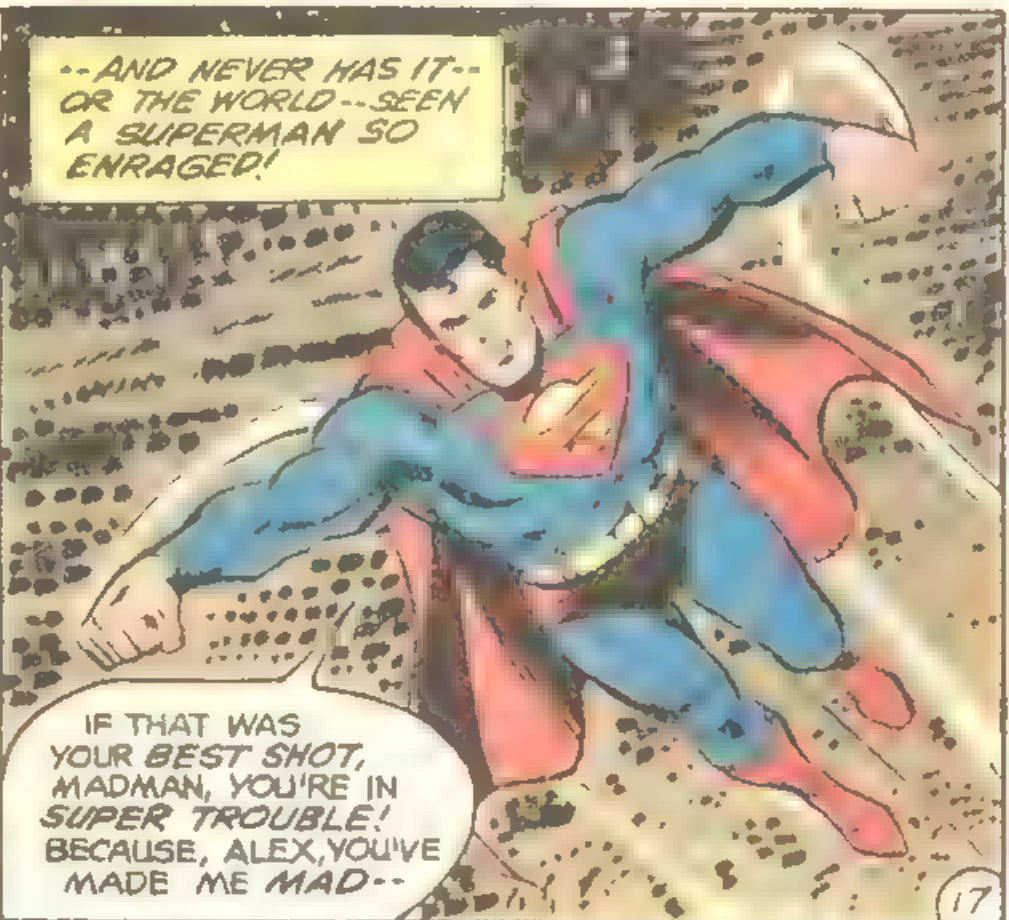
YOU'RE  
WELCOME  
TO TRY, PLANETEER,  
BUT I PROMISE--



--I DON'T INTEND TO  
MAKE IT EASY FOR  
YOU ... UGH!--

HA HA! YOU PITIFUL, DOOMED  
BUFFOON! WHAT MAKES YOU  
THINK YOU HAVE THAT CHOICE?

THE SPHINX HAS STOOD FOR MILLENNIA IN  
THIS DESERT, A SILENT, UNFEELING  
WITNESS TO THE PASSAGE OF HISTORY  
... YET NEVER HAS IT WITNESSED  
SUCH A BATTLE--



--AND NEVER HAS IT--  
OR THE WORLD--SEEN  
A SUPERMAN SO  
ENRAGED!

IF THAT WAS  
YOUR BEST SHOT,  
MADMAN, YOU'RE IN  
SUPER TROUBLE!  
BECAUSE, ALEX, YOU'VE  
MADE ME MAD--

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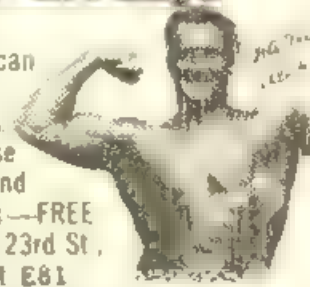
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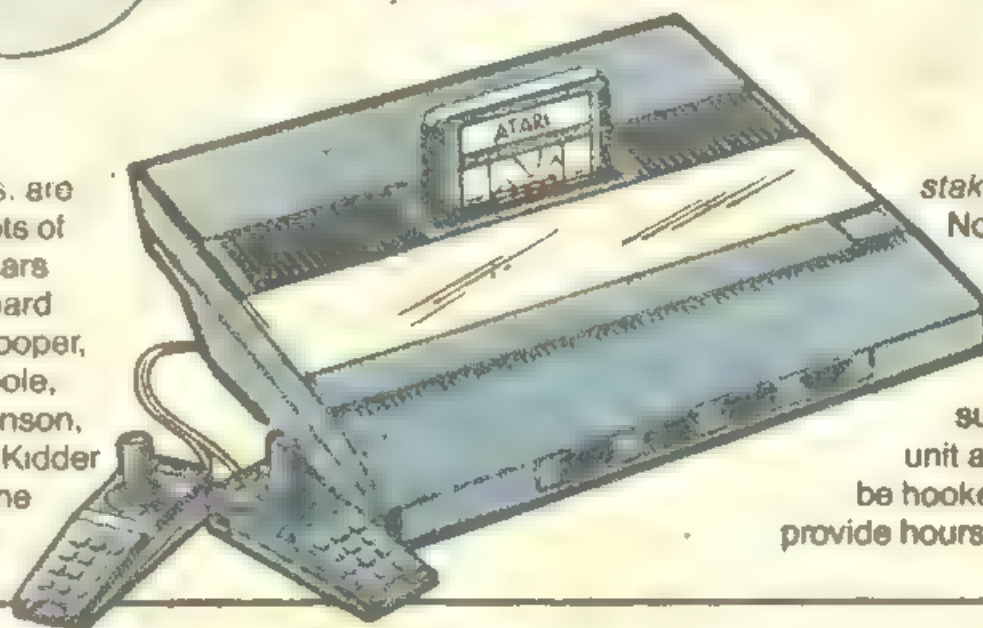
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stakes could be you!  
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**Plus:** The first 2,500 entrants will receive a free copy of the official *Superman III* movie poster!

## Here's how to enter!

No purchase necessary. All persons are eligible to enter the *Superman III* Movie Sweepstakes as often as they wish (or only once) by filling out the entry blank (at right), a facsimile thereof, or by hand-printing your name and address on a blank piece of paper.

All entries which are received prior to 5:00 PM July 29, 1983 are eligible for inclusion in a single random drawing for one first prize, fifty second prizes, one hundred third prizes, one hundred fourth prizes and one hundred fifth prizes. The first 2,500 entries received by us will automatically receive, by mail, a free copy of the official *Superman III* movie poster.

Only one prize awarded per entrant.

Receiving a *Superman III* movie poster will not disqualify an entrant from winning one of the other prizes.

This sweepstakes is open to all residents of the United States except employees or agents of Warner Communications Inc. or any of its divisions subsidiaries or affiliates and members of their immediate families, advertising, promotion and service agencies. This sweepstakes is void wherever prohibited by law.

The odds of winning one of the prizes to be awarded will be determined by the number of entries received by 5:00 PM July 29, 1983. All prizes will be awarded. No substitutions of prizes will be permitted. Taxes, where applicable, will be the sole responsibility of the prize winner.

Entrants need not be present to win. All winners will be officially notified by mail. A list of winners

will be available to anyone who sends a stamped, self-addressed envelope to *Superman III* Movie Sweepstakes, PO Box 1308-F, Dept. T, Fort Lee, NJ 07024.

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To enter, mail this coupon or a facsimile to: *Superman III* Movie Sweepstakes, PO Box 1308-F, Dept. S, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. All entries must be received by 5 PM, July 29, 1983 to be eligible. Drawing will be held August 1, 1983.

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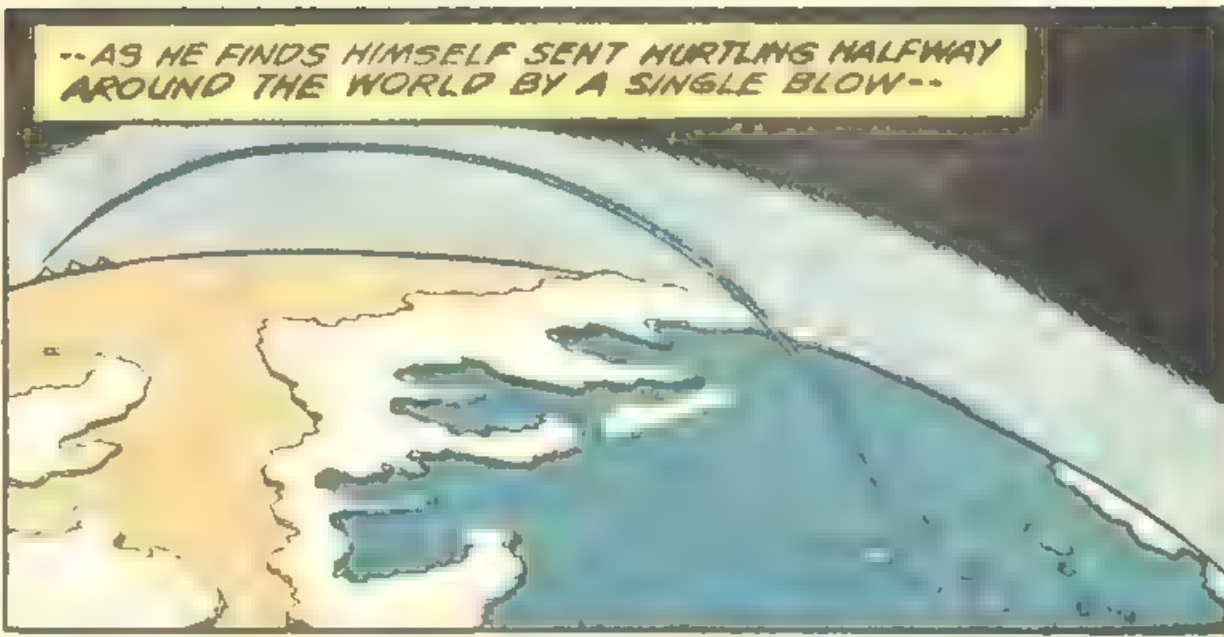
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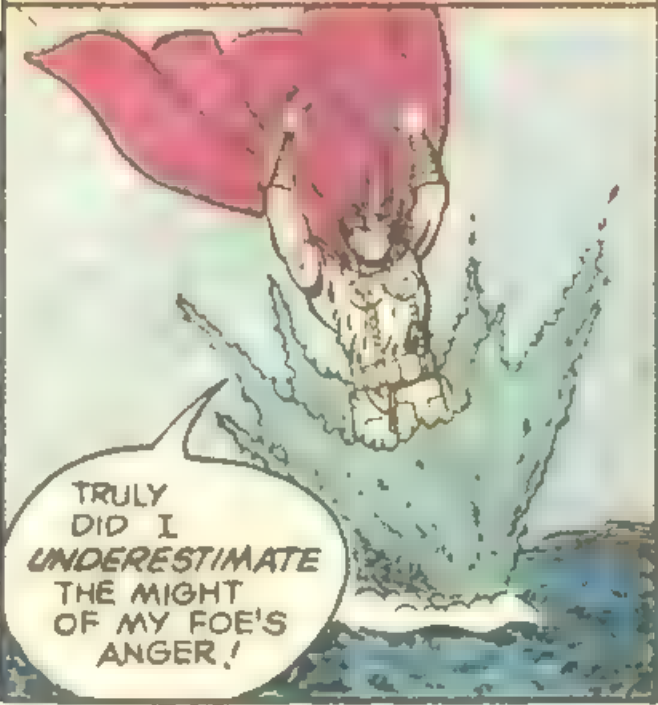
--AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!

BUT ITS MEANING BECOMES ALL TOO CLEAR TO THE PLANETEER--

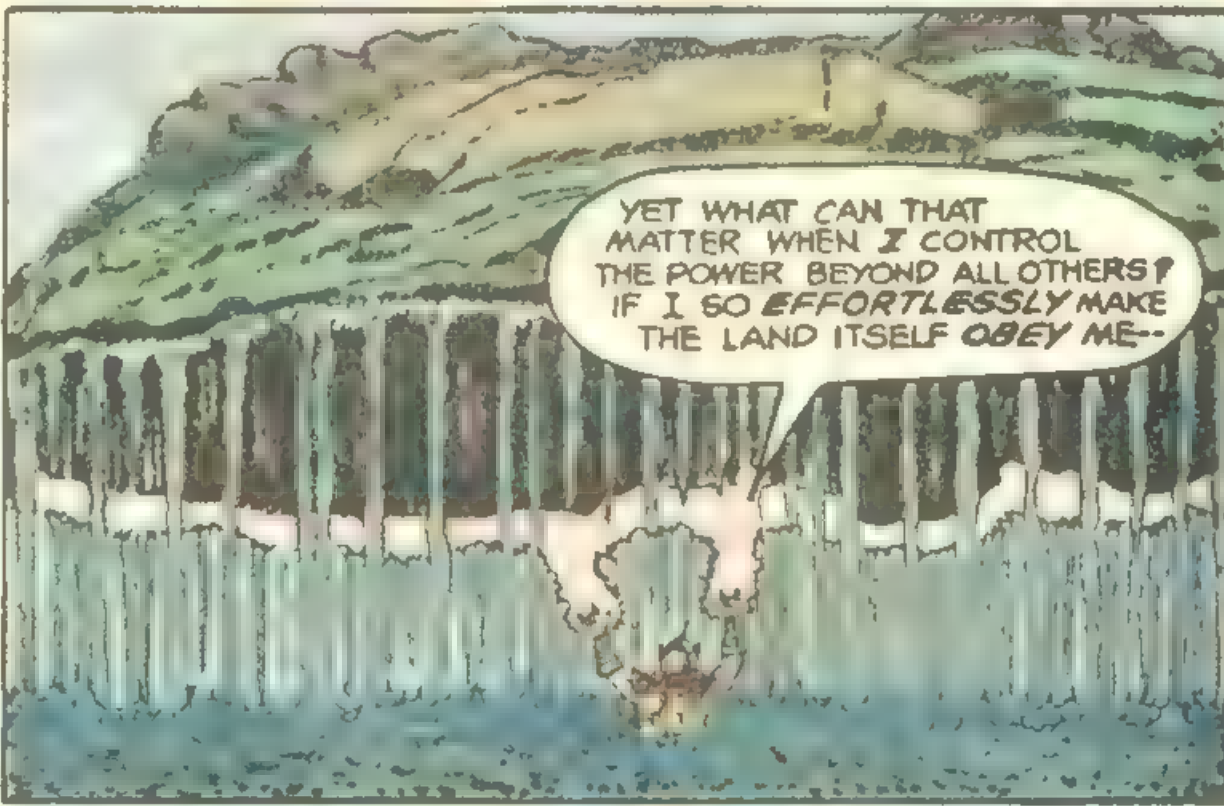


--AS HE FINDS HIMSELF SENT HURLING HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD BY A SINGLE BLOW--

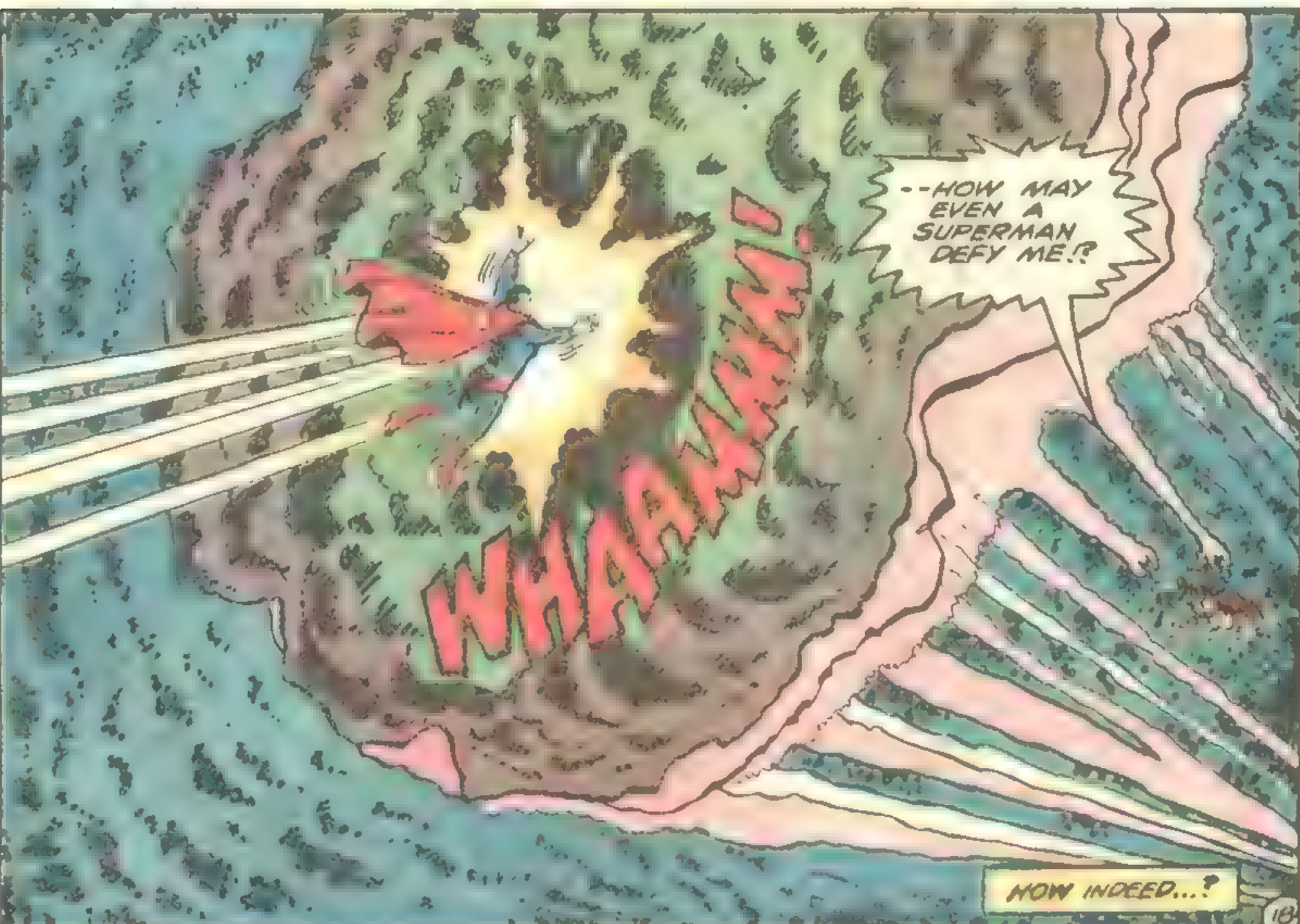
--TO A SAFE ALBEIT STARTLING, SPLASHDOWN IN THE PACIFIC...



TRULY DID I UNDERESTIMATE THE MIGHT OF MY FOE'S ANGER!



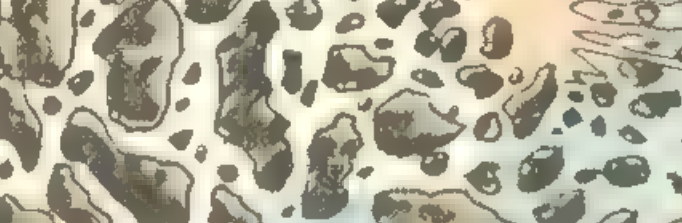
YET WHAT CAN THAT MATTER WHEN I CONTROL THE POWER BEYOND ALL OTHERS? IF I SO EFFORTLESSLY MAKE THE LAND ITSELF OBEY ME--



--HOW MAY EVEN A SUPERMAN DEFY ME?!

NOW INDEED...?

PERHAPS HE CANNOT—



-- AND AS SUCH --

-- HE CAN DO NAUGHT BUT TRY!

THOK!

19

AGAIN THE MAN OF STEEL'S SINGLE, AWESOME BLOW SENDS THE PLANETEER FLYING THROUGH THE THIN UPPER ATMOSPHERE OF EARTH, COVERING THOUSANDS OF MILES IN SECONDS...

... TO LAND AMID THE GIANT REDWOODS OF CALIFORNIA...

KRASH!

UNNNHH!

TRULY THIS SUPERMAN IS MIGHTIER THAN I FIRST SUSPECTED--

--BUT THAT MIGHT WILL BE AS NOTHING--

--WHEN ONCE HE FALLS--

--BEFORE THE PLANETEER!

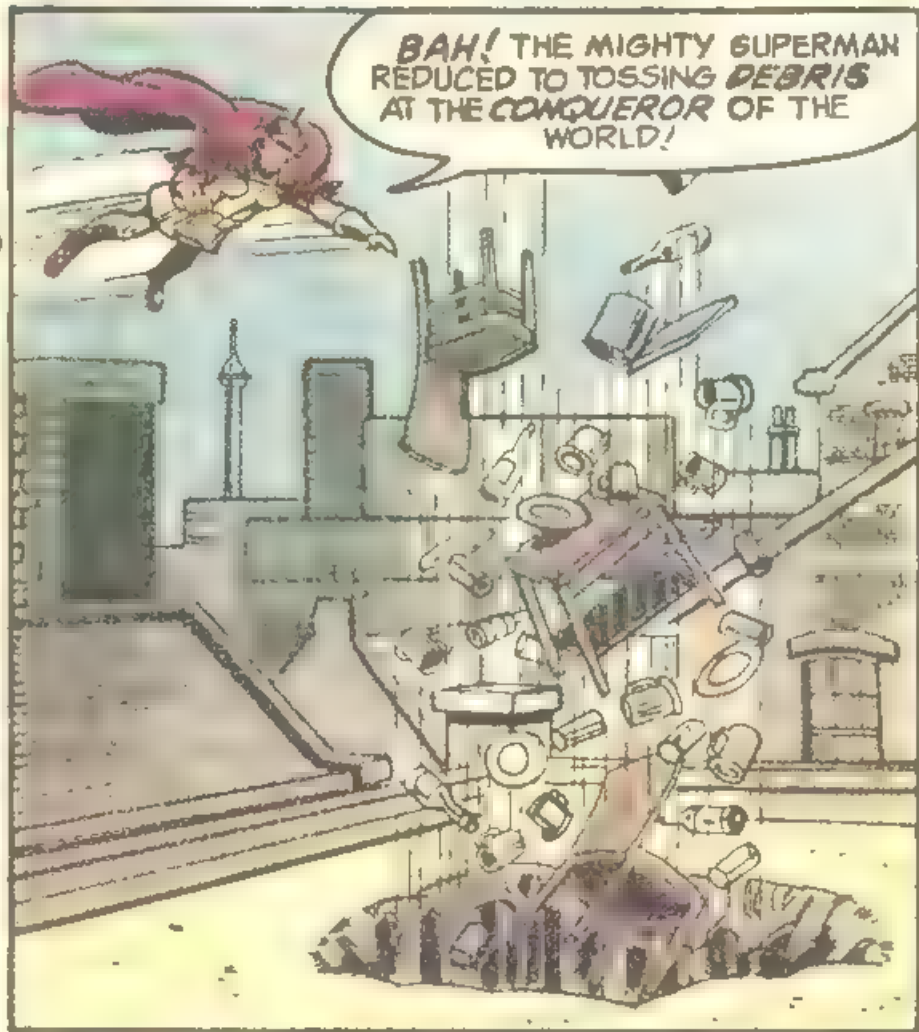
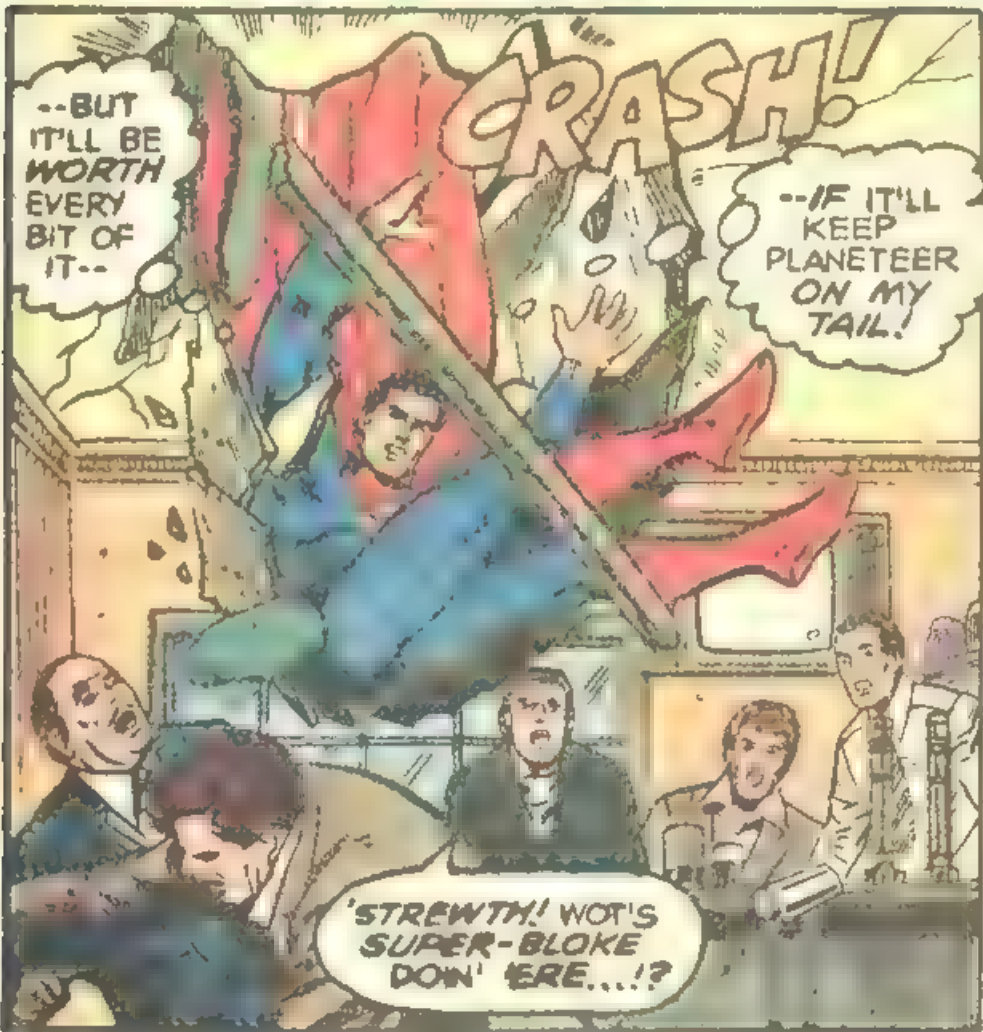
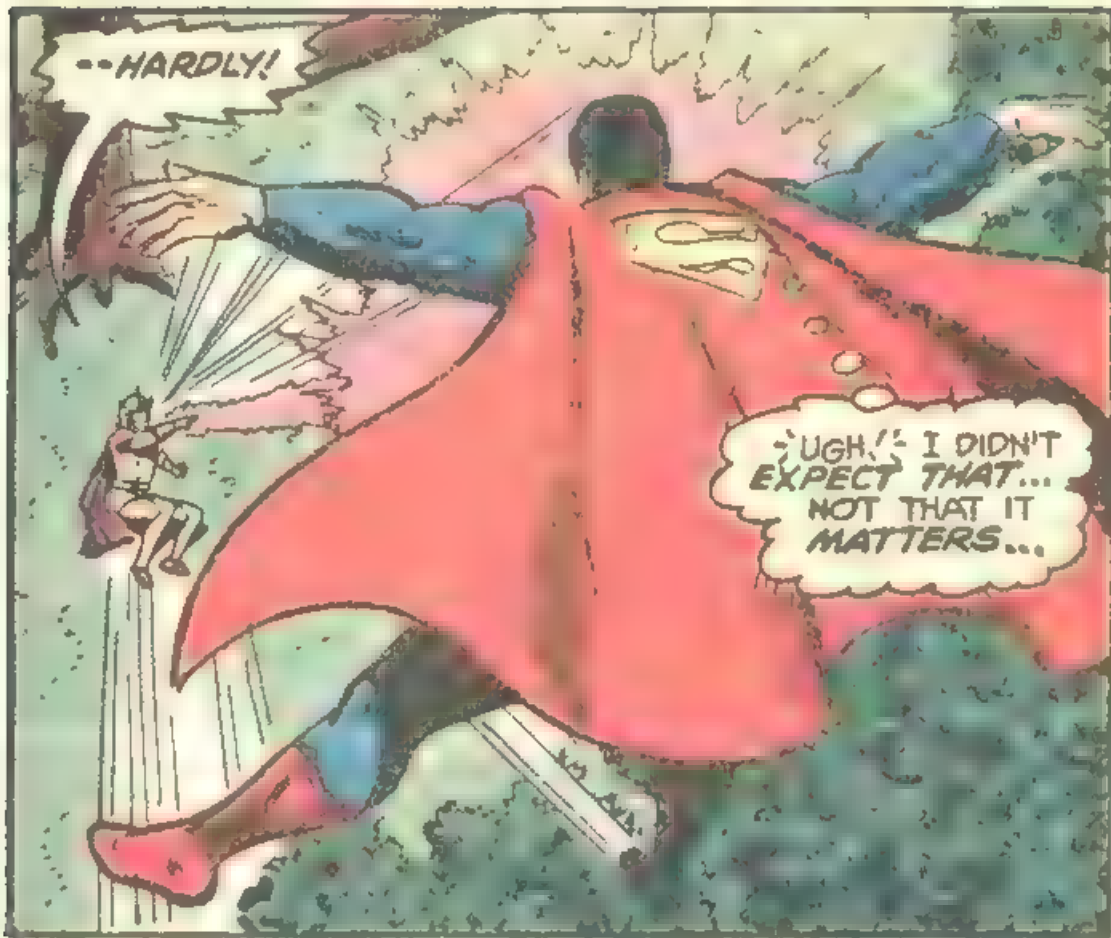
PLANETEER'S PATH IS EASY TO FOLLOW-- AND IT SEEMS, IT MIGHT'VE EVEN DONE SOME GOOD! A FOREST FIRE WAS HEADED THIS WAY--

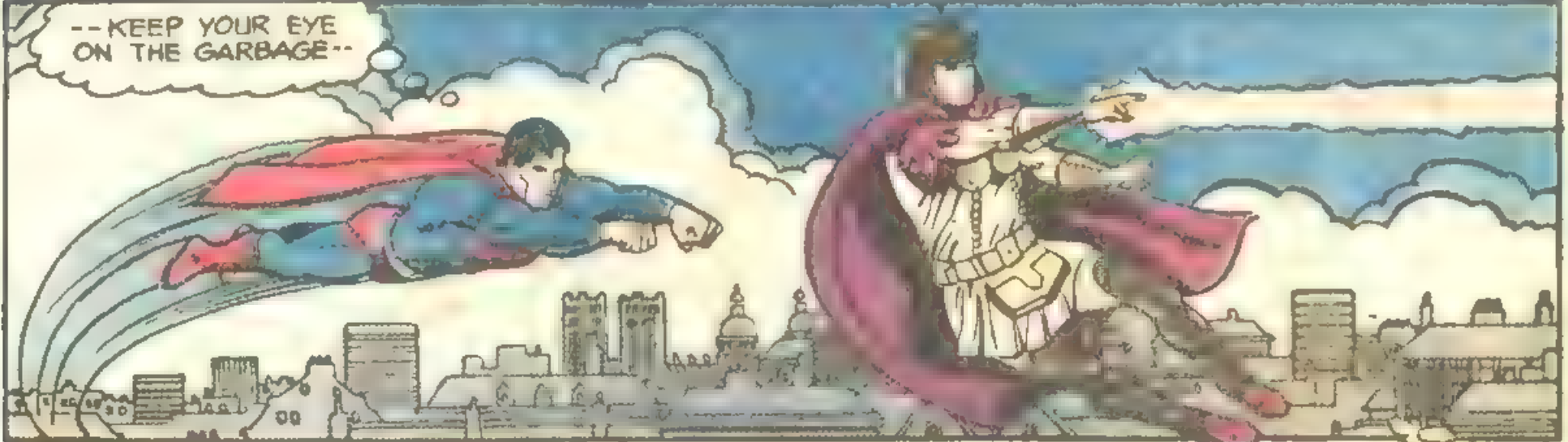
--BUT THE LINE OF TREES HE SMASHED DOWN WILL SERVE AS A FIRE-LINE TO HALT ITS PROGRESS! STILL, ANY GOOD DEEDS THAT COME OUT OF THIS ARE ENTIRELY ACCIDENTAL--

--WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR THE PLANETEER'S PLANS!

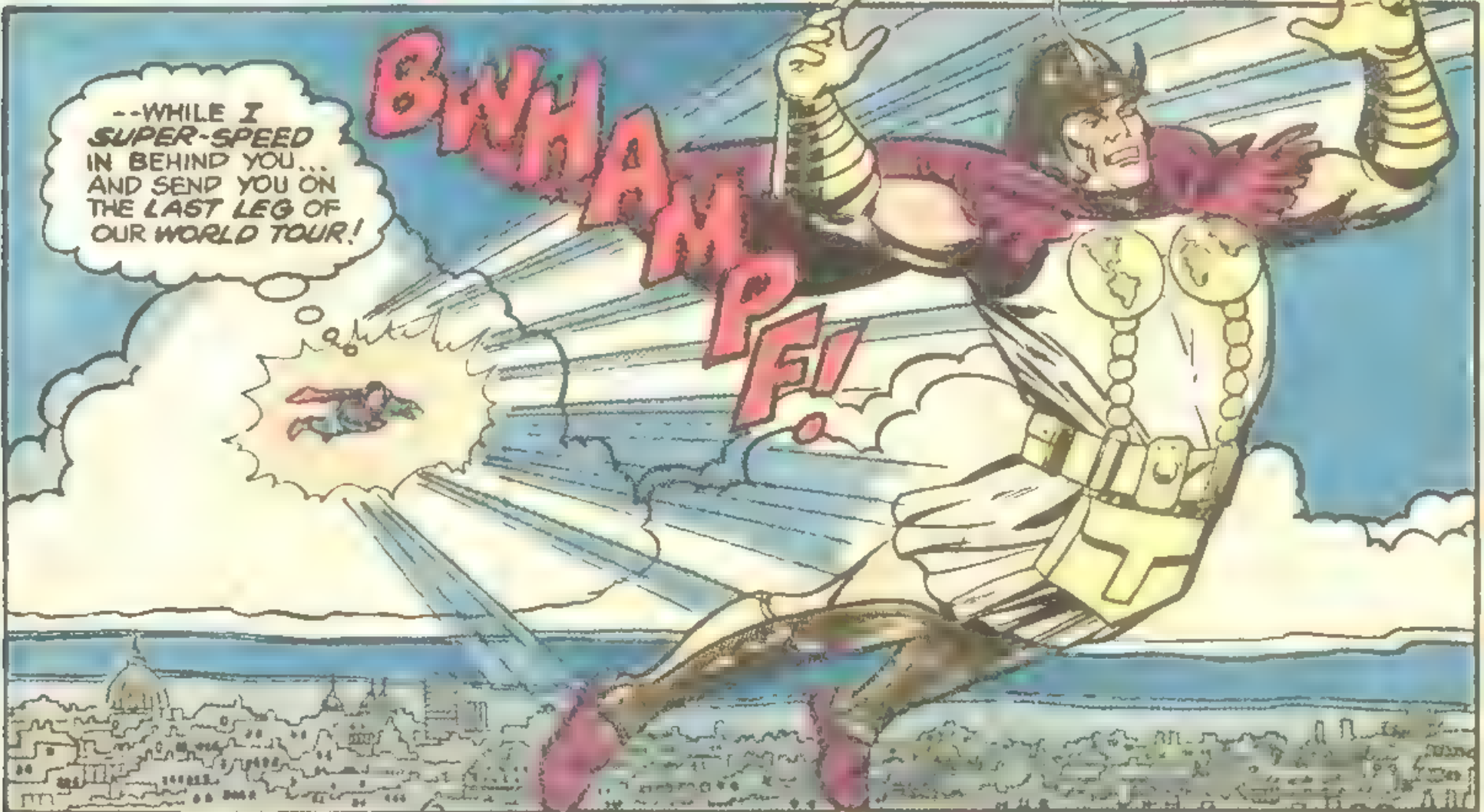
READY TO GIVE IT UP, ALEX?

NAY, MAN OF KRYPTON--



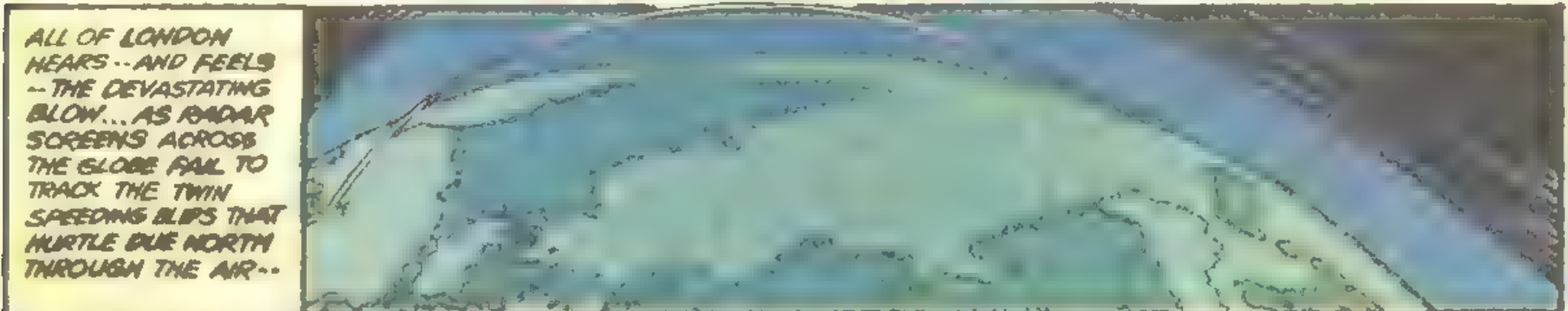


--KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE GARBAGE--

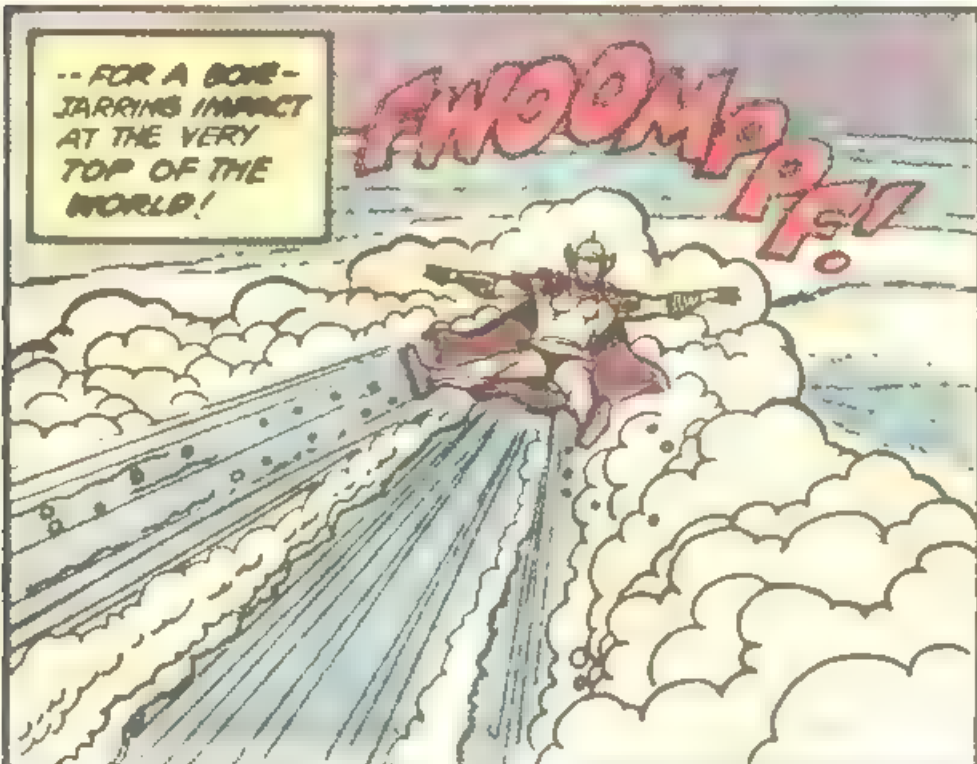


--WHILE I SUPER-SPEED IN BEHIND YOU... AND SEND YOU ON THE LAST LEG OF OUR WORLD TOUR!

BWHAMPFI!

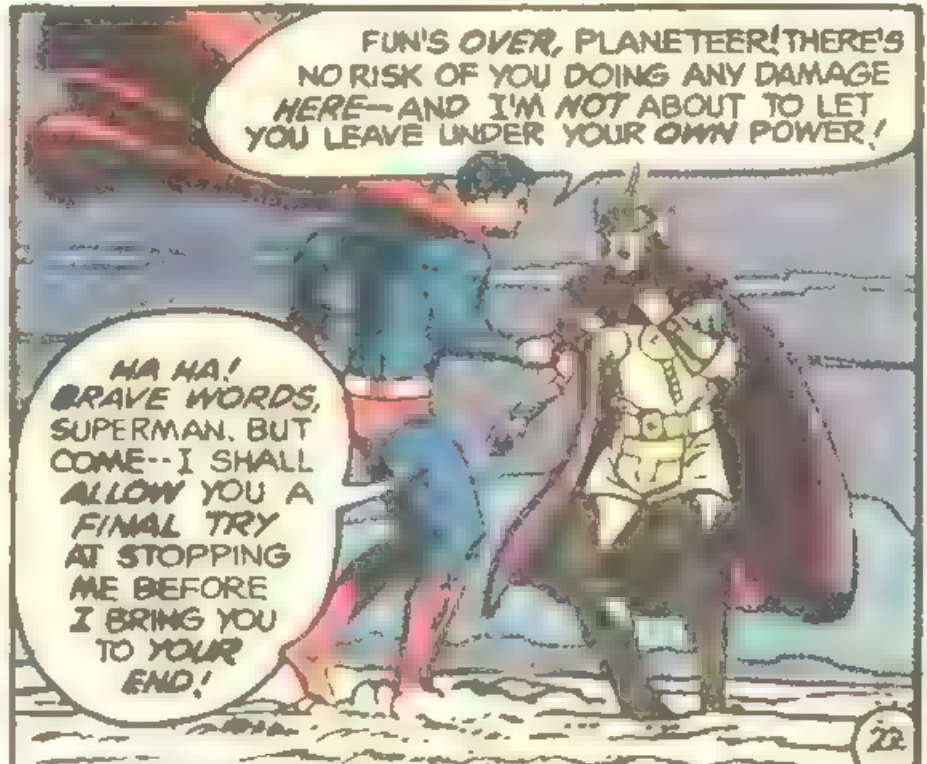


ALL OF LONDON HEARS--AND FEELS--THE DEVASTATING BLOW...AS RADAR SCREENS ACROSS THE GLOBE FAIL TO TRACK THE TWIN SPEEDING BLIPS THAT HURTLE DUE NORTH THROUGH THE AIR--



--FOR A BOE-JARRING IMPACT AT THE VERY TOP OF THE WORLD!

FWOOMPFI!



FUN'S OVER, PLANETEER! THERE'S NO RISK OF YOU DOING ANY DAMAGE HERE--AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU LEAVE UNDER YOUR OWN POWER!

HA HA! BRAVE WORDS, SUPERMAN, BUT COME--I SHALL ALLOW YOU A FINAL TRY AT STOPPING ME BEFORE I BRING YOU TO YOUR END!

# MEANWHILE

Dear Mom,

I know, I **KNOW**... I haven't written or called in weeks. And I know that I always tell you I've been busy and you always say "You're always busy" (I should think by now you'd be accustomed to it.) Anyway, I truly am sorry it's been so long since you've heard from me, but I've truly been, extra busy. As you know, the conductors union's strike against Metro North, the commuter railroad I take into New York City each day, is into its second month. Many of us have found it nearly impossible to get back and forth and I've been staying in a hotel near the office during the week, driving in on Monday and home on Thursday or Friday. I've been spending 12 hours or so up at DC each day I'm in town and getting a lot done.

What I've been working on is 1984. DC Comics scheduled an exciting array of comics for 1983... 10 annuals, a slew of new titles, Maxi-Series, Mini-Series, Graphic Novels, DC/Marvel team-ups, a high-quality reprint series and several high-quality, new format titles. (Have you seen Frank Miller's *Renin*? nifty, what?) We've had some serious time problems getting these books done. The creative people, in response to the demands of our readers for ever better comics, have slowed down their normal rate of production in order to spend more time on each page, each drawing, each cover. Their goals are quality, not quantity and they know quality takes time. In addition to this, DC Comics moved its offices in December. You remember how messy things were when you moved from New York to Stratford recently; how long it was before your new place was functional how much effort and money it took to make it happen? Well, moving offices for about 50 people is much worse. And we lost a lot of time. And by the time we were truly functional again, it was holiday time and we lost some more time, and our riddled schedule lay tattered upon the floor... a victim of unforeseen circumstances.

Fortunately, the people at DC are all pros... our Editors, Promotion and Marketing people, Joe Orlando, Paul Levitz, Jenette Kahn, all pitched in to dig us out. Words of encouragement,

screams of anguish, and words of criticism combined in just the right quantities kept things moving... later than we planned, but moving. We've made our initial launches (quite successfully, I might add) of *Omega Men*; *Renin*; *Amethyst*, *Princess of Gem World*; *Batman and the Outsiders* and *Green Arrow* Mini-Series. On the launch pad is *Vigilante*; *Star Raiders* (our first graphic novel), *Thriller*; the *Superman III* movie adaptation, *New Talent Showcase*; and our first annuals. Being readied are *Star Trek*; *The JLA/Avengeers* team-up; *Warlords* (our second graphic novel); and the balance of the annuals. Later in the year, *Teen Titans/X-Men #2*; *The Redeemer*; (Joe Kubert's first series in years!); *Atari Force*, (Jose Garcia Lopez's first regular assignment. Check into the *Star Raiders* graphic novel to see the enormity of this man's talent. Co-created and written by one of my favorites, Gerry Conway.) *Infinity, Inc.* (Roy Thomas, Jerry Ordway and Mike Machlin's new Earth II entry); and *Nathaniel Dusk*, a Mini-Series by Don McGregor and Gene Colan. By this time, incidentally, the newsprint line will probably shift to the better *Mando* paper. Well, we've got some time problems but it looks like we'll make all the above. Certainly I've already done most of what I'm capable of doing to make it happen. I'm sure you'll be proud of me.

And of course that brings me to 1984... and what can we do for an encore? Time problems aside, 1983 is bound to be our best recent year, if not our best ever! And if you buy into the theory that you get better or you get worse (I do!), you'll realize that 1984 provides DC Comics with both a difficult challenge and a wonderful opportunity. (You know I've never turned away from a challenge, mom. Remember the bloody noses I brought home from school?)

Okay, what to do? Obviously, I can't lock into a 1984 schedule this early, but I can set goals. In general, then, in 1984 we should

- 1) Launch 4 to 6 new titles
- 2) Start 2 to 4 new Maxi-Series
- 3) Release 4 to 8 graphic novels
- 4) Begin a revitalization program for our older, regular titles

5) Add some humor titles, primarily for our younger readers

6) Create a publication especially for our female audience (No, *Gloria*... we don't mean icky romance comics!)

7) Sprinkle all of the above liberally with Mini-Series... some featuring current DC characters, some featuring brand new concepts and characters

8) Create a format to utilize the characters recently acquired from Charlton Comics Group

To turn these goals into realities, I've been talking to all our current creative contributors, looking at concepts contributed by people not now part of our staff, and I am currently involved in a major restructuring of our in-house staff so that we can better utilize our creative strengths and improve our administrative efficiency. An example of the last: Ernie Colon has left our staff as an Editor to return to freelancing. Ernie will continue to edit several titles from home but this shift will allow him to draw *Amethyst* (a recently launched Maxi-Series that is doing quite well) on time and start work on a graphic novel that Ernie has written and will draw. Ernie's desk in DC's office will be taken over by Alan Gold, an experienced Editor (though not in comics) recommended by Marv Wolfman. (Take a bow, Alan.)

What else? We could conclude talks this week with Conway and Broderick re. *A Firestorm* graphic novel, Jenette has accepted a new concept from newcomer Gregg Potter. Really great. More about this when we choose an artist and draw up contracts, two other Mini-Series ideas tentatively approved one by Robert Loren Fleming, one by Marv Wolfman... I'm sure you get the idea. Anyway I can't be too much more specific right now. Some of the creative people have promised me bodily damage if I divulge too much, too soon... and this is definitely too soon.

I hope I haven't bored you by... rambling on this way. I just wanted to impart some sense of the effort, energy and enthusiasm generated by the people here at DC and why my commitment to them can be no less than total. Yes, I'm very busy... but so is everyone else and I bet their Moms are no happier than you. I'll write (or call, again soon. Kiss Dad for me. Thank you and good afternoon.

Your Son,

*Dick*

P.S. Cal. Marie and tell her I'll be home on Friday this week. I have a late Thursday meeting with... Aw, shucks I really can't tell you with whom. Sorry.

To whom it may concern

I walked into Dick's office looking for the new "Meanwhile" column. Dick wasn't in and a search for the copy turned up nothing but the above letter. If I don't get something to the typesetter today, we print a blank page! So... it's a this dumb letter to Mom or nothing!

Bob Rozakis  
DC Production Manager

HERE--TAKE YOUR **BEST BLOW!** I SHALL DO **NAUGHT** TO HALT YOU! BUT BE **WARNED**--MY TURN SHALL COME **NEXT!**

THAT'S VERY **KIND** OF YOU, **ALEX...** BUT **SOMEHOW**, I'M NOT **WORRIED**.

IT IS BUT THE **MEREST** OF **TOUCHES...** A **TAP** OF A **SUPER-HARD** FINGER AGAINST A **MOST** HUMAN **JAW--**

--BUT IT IS **ENOUGH!**

IT'S **OVER!**

I KEPT THE **PLANETEER** SO **OCCUPIED** WITH OUR **GAME** OF **GLOBAL TAG** THAT HE NEVER **NOTICED** I WAS **SENDING** HIM **HERE...** TO THE **EARTH'S** **NORTH** **MAGNETIC** **POLE--**

-- WHERE THE **MAGNETIC** **FIELD** **HOLDS** NO **SWAY!** AND JUST AS **COMPASSES** ARE **USELESS** UP **HERE--**

--SO WERE THE **PLANETEER'S** **MAGNETIC** **POWERS!**

TIME-JUMP:  
ONE HOUR  
LATER...

... AND THINGS ARE  
SETTLING BACK TO  
NORMAL HERE  
IN GIZA, EGYPT,  
JOSH. SUPERMAN  
TURNED THE PLANETEER  
OVER TO THE  
AUTHORITIES EARLIER--

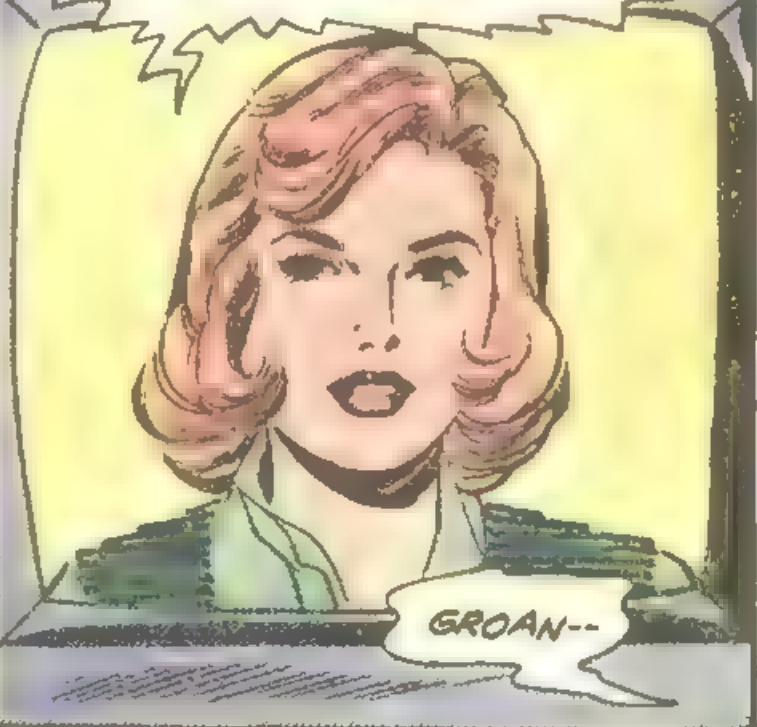
-- AND EVEN NOW IS  
IN THE PROCESS OF  
REPAIRING THE DAMAGE  
DONE TO THE SPHINX IN  
THE BATTLE WITH THE  
DEFEATED PLANETEER...  
JUST AS HE DID TO THE  
OTHER LOCALES AROUND  
THE WORLD BEFORE  
RETURNING HERE.



MEANWHILE, THE RELEASED WORLD-LEADERS  
HAVE WASTED NO TIME IN GETTING DOWN TO  
THE BUSINESS OF PEACE TALKS. NONE OF  
THE EIGHT NATIONAL HEADS WERE HURT  
IN THE KIDNAPPING--



--SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO ASSURE  
THE WORLD THAT MATTERS HERE  
ARE GOING JUST FINE! HOW  
ARE THINGS PROGRESSING ON  
THE HOMEFRONT, JOSH?



GROAN--

--IT'S ONE MINUTE TO AIR TIME...  
I'VE JUST TAKEN MY LAST ULCER PILL--

--AND CLARK KENT'S STILL  
AMONG THE MISSING! HOW  
DO YOU THINK IT'S GOING?!



REALLY,  
JOSH--

--HAVE I EVER LET  
YOU DOWN BEFORE?

KENT!  
WHERE THE  
DICKENS HAVE  
YOU BEEN...?  
NO--NEVER MIND!  
JUST GET IN THAT  
CHAIR--YOU'RE  
ON IN THIRTY  
SECONDS....!



JOSH--  
IT'D TAKE THE  
PLANETEER  
TO KEEP ME  
AWAY--!

IN SUPERMAN® 388--  
IMAGINATION TURNS  
REAL FOR

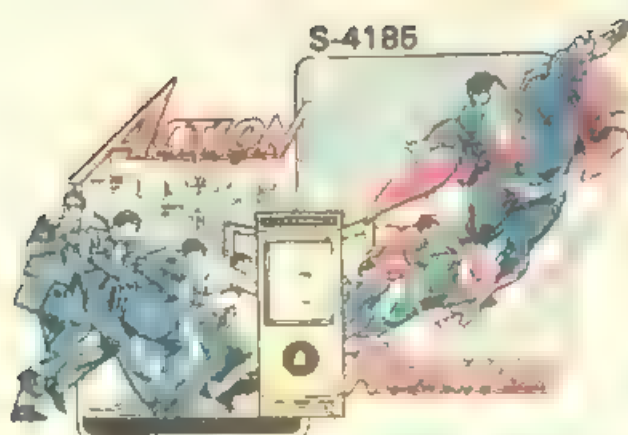
**"THE KID WHO  
PLAYED  
SUPERMAN!"**

ON SALE JULY 14!  
IT'S A DATE!

AND IN ACTION® 548,  
FOUR PHANTOM ZONE  
VILLAINS ESCAPE--  
WHILE EVIL ALIENS  
ALSO HEAD EARTHWARD  
THEIR PREY

**SUPERMAN**  
ON SALE  
JULY 28!  
IT'S ANOTHER  
DATE!

**END**



DC COMICS, INC., 666 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10103

Dear Julie and Bob,

In *ACTION* #543, the Man of Steel faced a menace more insidious, more treacherous than any arch-villain he has tangled with! I am referring not to a person but rather an issue: the philosophical question of power and responsibility.

Hypothetically, suppose that you, Bob Rozakis, suddenly acquired super-powers. Perhaps you have daydreamed about this. Some readers might think it would be all peaches and cream. They picture the good life—zipping along averting train wrecks, plugging up live volcanoes, rescuing gorgeous women from burning buildings, and receiving numerous accolades along the way. But no! You would be faced with moral decisions every day. Suppose a foreign government is cracking down on political dissent. Suppose dozens of civilians are being slaughtered. Do you interfere? If you remain uninvolved, how do you justify it to the critics and second-guessers of the media? How do you justify it to yourself? Could you just sit idly by and watch it all happen with your telescopic vision? If you choose to intervene this time, where do you draw the line next time? Civil wars and military confrontations occur throughout the world at various times. Men of intelligence and good character might legitimately disagree about which side is right in a given conflict. When do you get involved? Is it ever clear cut? Possessing all this power, to what extent do you have the right to impose your own judgments on others? There are some serious questions here!

Obviously, none of this has escaped writer Marv Wolfman, who tackled the problem head on. The dialogue between *Superman* and Lois on pages 13-16 was one of the greatest bits of character development we've seen in awhile. And these two are not the only ones with power and its abuse on the mind. Vandal Savage is using this troublesome issue to discredit and humiliate *Superman*. How many readers realized the triple entendre intended in the marvelous title "Within These Hands—Power!"? Marv is not just referring to the nuclear fists of *Neutron*, but to *Vandal Savage* and *Superman* as well! Nice touch, Marv.

RALPH SILVER  
87 Murdock St.

Huntington Station, NY 11746

Wait a minute—let's get back to the part about yours truly getting super-powers! First of all, I'd fly to work instead of riding the Long Island Railroad... and I'd do the day's work at super-speed so I could go home and read all the books I haven't gotten around to reading yet... although I could read them all at super-speed and be done in a couple of hours... so maybe I'd just practice leaping tall buildings in a single bound or something.—BR

.....

Dear Julie and Bob,

What is this? *Superman* would never pull a stunt like angrily turning on his heat vision and wrecking furniture—even Vandal Savage's! *Superman* is so cool, calm and collected they probably could name a deodorant after him! I can understand his thinking *Neutron* was demolishing the building illegally; that's reasonable. But *Superman* isn't an idiot!

Marv, you're a great writer, but you've got *Superman* doing things out of anger and frustration that just don't suit him. I don't care if Lois has dumped him for now; even that wouldn't prevent *Superman* from being a lot more together than you're allowing him to be.

Otherwise, the story in #543 was wonderful. *Neutron* granted a parole; Lois in the Middle East; Lana and Clark riding in the park together; Perry; Lois and *Superman* at the North

Pole; action with *Superman* and *Neutron*; and, of course, Vandal Savage—a pretty full issue, I'd say!

BARB SCHROEDER

111 Acklen Park Dr.

Apt. E-208

Nashville, TN 37203

Considering all he's been going through—and all the power he's got to keep under wraps—we'd say wrecking some furniture was still being cool, calm, and collected!—BR

.....

Dear Editor,

I'd like to tell you how angry I am. I just realized (with the purchase of *ACTION* #543) what you've been doing at DC. You're taking Lana Lang and turning her into a romantic involvement for Clark/*Superman* at the expense of Lois Lane. I asked myself, "Why would they be doing that?" and then I realized. Margot Kidder has a diminished role in *SUPERMAN III* and Lana Lang's character is being built up. You've obviously made a deal to adapt your comics to suit the writers of the film.

Let me tell you something: the people who've only seen the movies couldn't possibly know the Lana Lang that we faithful readers have come to distrust (and with good reason). Lana has always proven selfish, conceited, and mindless of everyone's feelings in her vain attempt to succeed. If you think we'll buy the notion that she's changed, well, I believe as much as I'd believe Luthor and Brainiac saying they'll reform every time they say they will.

I'll go one step further. Let's say you really are attempting to change Lana's character; what do you think you're doing? *Superman* and Lois Lane go together like every great romantic couple in film and literature. You've given us enough glimpses of the future that more than hinted that Lois was the woman *Superman* would eventually marry. Change this and you've lost not only your credibility but your integrity as well.

Lois not in *Superman's* life? If this is the case, my involvement with your magazine is going to be strictly as a collector. How dare you have *Superman* thinking, "She's completely different from Lois... who'd connive for an exclusive on the blue-ribbon dog-show winner!" That's not Lois he's thinking about; it's Lana! We all know it.

BENN NASON

11853 Magnolia Blvd.

North Hollywood, CA 91601

Sorry you don't think Lana can change, Benn, but let me point out that when I started reading *Superman* comics, all Lois Lane ever seemed to do was try to prove Clark was the Man of Steel. I always felt that Lois was a pain in the neck and Lana (whenever we saw her as an adult, which wasn't too often) was a much nicer person. So if Lois could change over the years to the woman she is today, why can't Ms. Lang?—BR

.....

Dear Editor:

*ACTION* #543 was the best *Superman* comic I have read in years. This is the *Superman* I have long waited to see. Marv Wolfman makes him at last seem much more than a one-dimensional, blue-garbed hunk. *Superman* appears to have cracks and chinks in his protective steel coating. Take his comment about Lois: "My showing up now might be just what she needs!" Just a touch patronizing there. And there's his simple-minded (or was it frightened?) rage at Vandal Savage. This "man of steel" really isn't God in a red cape after all. Though he makes a statement to this effect, *Superman* really doesn't realize its truth.

How truly refreshing it is for me—a comics reader for over 20 years—to at last feel confident in plunking down my 60¢ before the smug saleslady. Thanks to you folks this particular grown man can justify to one end all his taste in reading material. Keep it up!

GARY D. ROBINSON

Box 146

Alvin, IL 61811

Maybe one of these days you'll plunk down your 60¢ and find the smug saleslady embarrassedly hiding an issue of *ACTION* under the counter so you won't know she's been reading it!—Bob Rozakis



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